



Health And Family Forum



If you have questions concerning Health or Family send them to:

Siletz News
Health & Family Forum
P.O. Box 549
Siletz, OR 97380

All letters are considered confidential and identities will be withheld.

Q: I heard that children who have flu or chicken pox can die if they are given aspirin. Is this true? What should I do if my child doesn't feel well?

A: The condition you are referring to is called Reye syndrome which may follow influenza and chicken pox infections in children from infancy to their late teens. It is characterized by vomiting, violent headaches and unusual behavior in children who appear to be recovering from an often mild viral illness. It requires immediate diagnosis and admission to a hospital where emergency care can be provided. Reye syndrome is rare, but when it does occur it is considered life threatening.

Data on the connection between aspirin and Reye Syndrome are inconclusive and disputed. Until further studies are done the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service has advised caution when giving aspirin for such illness. These illnesses are usually minor and will go away by themselves. It is best to ask your doctor if medicine is needed.

Q: My husband and I occasionally go out for dinner and drinks. He usually drinks more than he should but he refuses to let me drive home. What can I do? I'm afraid he's going to be arrested for drunk driving.

A: Your fears are well founded. Before you go out with your husband again, you need to discuss this problem and come to an agreement about driving. Be specific about how much and how often he can drink and still be able to drive. A good rule is one ounce of alcohol per hour with regular eating to keep within the legal limits for driving. You also may agree that he give you the car keys at the beginning of the evening. If you are unable to reach an agreement or if he does not keep his commitment, then you should not ride home with him. This may mean that you call a cab or a friend. He must know you mean what you say.

Riding with an intoxicated person gives them the message that you approve of drinking and driving. Recent statistics show that seventy people per minute are killed by a drunk driver in this country alone.

I must also point out that your husband may be developing a drinking problem, or have one already. If either is true, drinking with him under any circumstances is enabling him to continue drinking. If you are concerned about your husband's drinking habits, I encourage you to learn more about alcoholism. You can do that by calling the Siletz Indian Alcohol Program at 444-2532 Ext. 38, the Lincoln County Council on Alcohol at 265-2971, or the Lincoln County Mental Health Program for Alcohol and Drug Abuse at 265-6611, Ext. 379.

You may also get help through AA and ALANON groups. List of meetings are listed in the local newspaper. Good luck!

Q: My husband and I are both enrolled Siletz tribal members. Most of our children are grown and are now living on their own. We have been talking about possibly opening our home to Indian children who are having problems with their own families and need a place to live for awhile. Could you tell us how to go about becoming certified as foster parents? Also, can we be licensed as a foster home without going through the State? We have been told that CSD pokes into your business all of the time if you try to get a state license and that the state won't certify many Indian families as foster homes.

A: First, let me say that your interest in becoming foster parents for Indian children is very welcome. Both by the Tribe and the State Children's Services Division (CSD). One of the biggest problems faced by the Siletz Indian Child Welfare Program is the shortage of certified Indian foster parents. Many tribal children, from Siletz and other tribes, continue to be placed in non-Indian foster homes when placements are necessary, simply because we cannot locate an Indian family with which to place them. One of the most important provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act is the requirement that Indian children must be placed with Indian families if at all possible. If we as Indian programs and tribes cannot identify families such as yours, our children will continue to be placed outside the Indian community.

Now for your question; at this time, the answer has to be, "Yes ...but", "Yes;" it is possible for you to become certified as a tribal foster home. The Siletz Family Court and the ICW Family Advocate have the authority to certify you and your husband as foster parents for the Tribe. "But"; because of limited tribal program resources, we cannot offer to provide support payments for the care of the foster children. I know that it is true that the majority of foster homes are not, "in it for the money" and some families would open their homes without payment. However, we must recognize that most families would need some type of financial assistance to meet the cost of supporting an additional child in the home. For that reason, I would advise anyone interested in becoming a certified foster home to seriously consider first becoming a licensed CSD foster home. This would permit you to receive state payments for the support of the foster children placed in your care. At the time of your certification you may state your preference for placement of Siletz children or even children from other tribes. This is important because of the fact that all of the Siletz cases involving child welfare matters involve CSD or other state agency intervention at this time. This is due to the fact that all of our cases arise off-reservation and so the tribe does not have exclusive jurisdiction. CSD works closely with the ICW Program and the Family Advocate in any case involving a Siletz family and for the most part, we have had a good working relationship with State CSD caseworkers.

In fact, several CSD Branch Offices have launched efforts of their own to recruit Indian Foster homes. If you are interested in finding out more about the CSD certification process, I would encourage you to contact your local CSD Branch Office and ask to speak to the Foster Home Consultant. CSD offices are listed in your phone book under the State of Oregon. If you wish to have tribal assistance during the CSD application process, contact the ICW Family Advocate in Siletz at 444-2532, extension 33.

BIA Graduate Program

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has awarded its Special Higher Education Program to American Indian Scholarships, Inc. (AIS) of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The \$958,000 program contract is for the support of American Indian and Alaska Native students attending graduate and professional schools in the 1985-86 year.

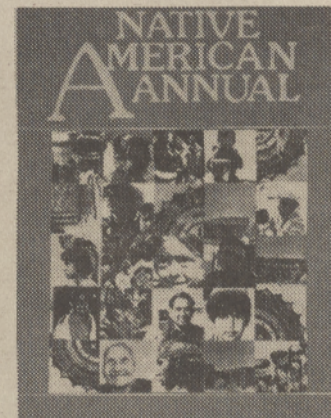
Lorraine P. Edmo, Executive Director of AIS, stated: "With this new contract, AIS will be able to continue to serve Indian graduate students throughout the country as it has done for the last 15 years. We especially urge graduate students in the fields of health, engineering, business, natural resources and education to apply since these are the areas identified as critical to current tribal needs and such applicants will receive priority consideration under the BIA-AIS contract." Since the BIA has a separate pro-

gram for Indian law students, AIS cannot assist law applicants under this contract.

Indian graduate students or college seniors interested in applying for aid must be one-fourth degree Indian and a member of a federally-recognized tribe; accepted at an accredited graduate or professional college; and able to verify financial need. The deadline for applying for the 1985-86 academic year is May 31, 1985. For an application, please contact: American Indian Scholarships, Inc., Suite D, 3335 Jefferson St., SE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108 (505/265-8335).



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