



Agindaso Abinoji-yag

"He/she reads or counts children"

Ain Dah Yung Center

1089 Portland Ave Saint Paul, MN 55104

651.227.4184

adycenter.org

By Sadie Hart, Policy and Advocacy Director

ICWA Compliance Newsletter Q1 2025

Welcome to the New ICWA Court Monitor and Resource Navigator!

Please join us in welcoming Stella Barnes as the new ICWA Court Monitor and Resource Navigator! Stella will monitor ICWA/MIFPA proceedings in Ramsey County and the surrounding metro counties as well as help connect families with American Indian services.

She shared: "I am excited to be welcomed into the Ain Dah Yung community as your ICWA Court Monitor and Resource Navigator! I have 10 years of experience in housing advocacy and nearly 20 years in legal administration. Community and family are what I value most in my life. I spend my spare time with my family and our many pets. I have 3 cats named Pounds, Goose and Pancakes. Fun fact about me: I have 23 nieces/nephews/niephews and have been an auntie since age 4. I am an auntie for life, and that extends from my home to my communities and to our home/Ain Dah Yung Center. Miigwech//thank you, it's my honor and privilege to be here."

Welcome to Ain Dah Yung Center, Stella!



Stella Barnes

Gigawaabimin Judge Diamond

Judge Patrick Diamond passed away on February 9, 2025, after suffering a cardiac arrest. He was 64. He attended the University of Minnesota Law School, clerked for Federal Appellate Judge Gerald Heaney, and was Deputy County Attorney of Hennepin County before his appointment to the Ramsey County District Court in 2012.

In This Issue

- New ICWA Court Monitor and Resource Navigator
- Gigawaabimin Judge Diamond
- 2024 Data Rollout
- Cherish the Children Pow Wow Pictures
- Quarter 1 Data
- Tribal Attendance

Judge Diamond was instrumental in the creation of the Second Judicial District Indian Child Welfare Act Court in 2018, which includes attorneys, social workers, and Guardians ad Litem who are trained in ICWA cases. He was a strong advocate for families and keeping the child's needs at the center of his decision-making. He also facilitated the Treatment/Drug Courts at the Juvenile Detention Center.

Miigwech/Pidamayaye/Pilamayaye/Pinigigi (thank you) to Judge Diamond for his commitment to American Indian families and his instrumental role in establishing the ICWA Court. His gentle spirit and dedication to preserving families are deeply missed. Gigawabamin menawah (see you again).



Judge Patrick Diamond

2024 Ramsey County Data Roll Out

The following data provides a four year overview of ICWA compliance in Ramsey County. The data was collected at hearings, talking to the parties involved, and reading case files. The following are snapshots highlighting numerous great accomplishments and improvements that have been made over the years!

Hearing Attendance

Attendance among mothers has decreased from 57.3% of the time in 2021 to 49.6% of the time in 2024.

This decrease may be caused by social services diverting families away from court when possible. These families are more likely to utilize voluntary services and engage more frequently with social services pre-court.

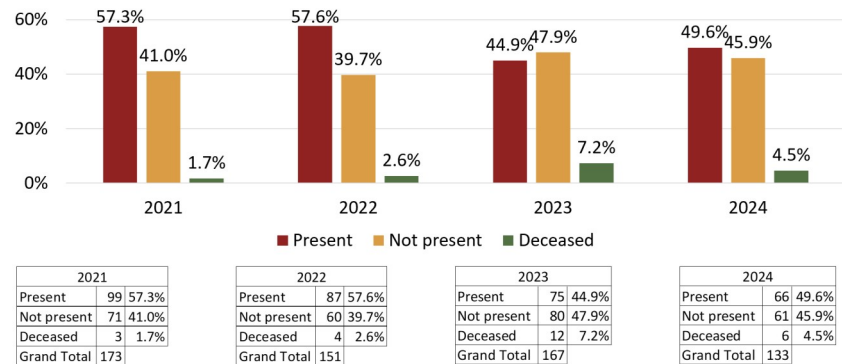
Attendance among fathers has dropped from 38.9% of the time in 2021 to 31.5% of the time in 2024.

When parents attended and had counsel their attorney appeared at 100% of hearings.

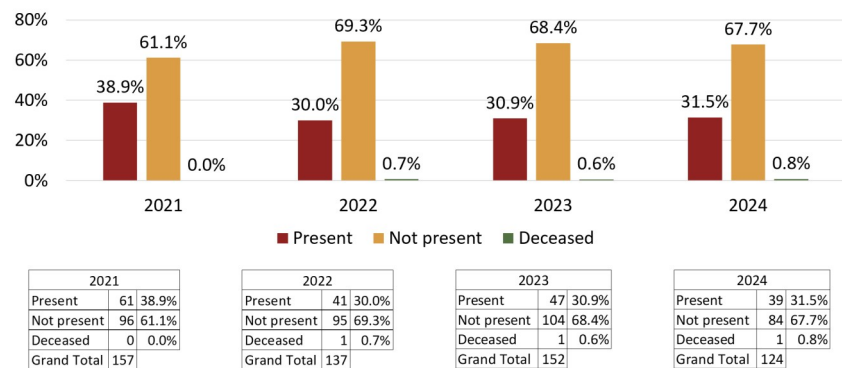
Though children rarely attended court, youth over the age of 10 were represented at 100% of hearings in 2024.

Tribes with the most hearings in 2024 included Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (33), White Earth Nation (25), Red Lake Nation (17), and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (16).

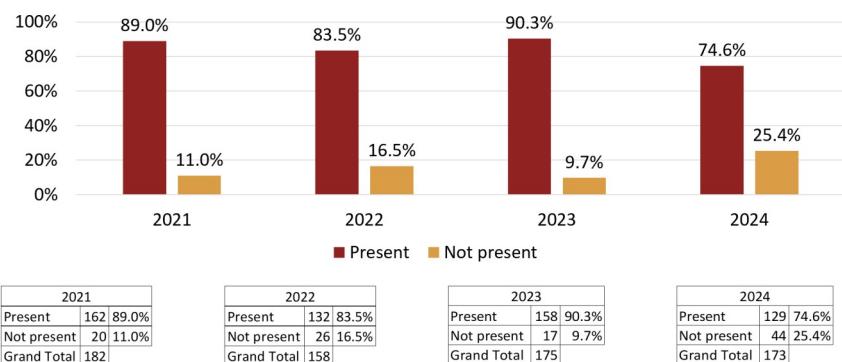
Attendance of Mothers



Attendance of Fathers



Attendance of Tribes (if Identified)



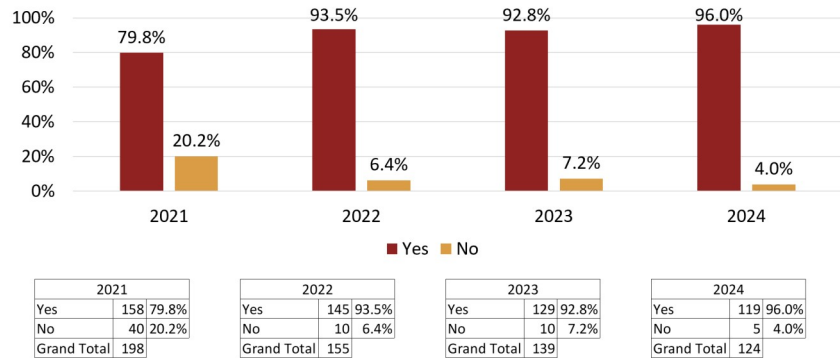
Active Efforts

The court consistently considers active efforts throughout the case. At each Emergency Protective Care hearing in 2024 the court made a finding that active efforts were made to prevent the child's removal from the home. From 2021 to 2024 there has been an increase in discussion regarding active efforts when a finding is made from 90.7% of the time to 100% of the time.

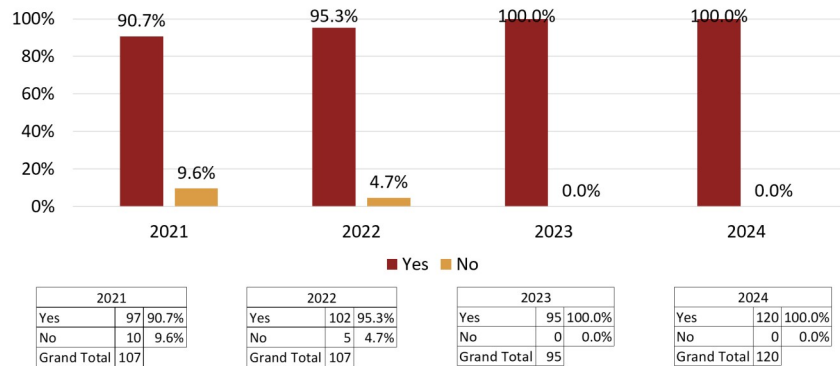
In court discussion typically includes how social services works with parents to complete case plan requirements, engages with the Tribe, and facilitates visitation.

There were 2 disputes regarding active efforts findings in 2024. These issues were raised by a mother and a Tribe and included lack of visitation and needing increased support from the social worker.

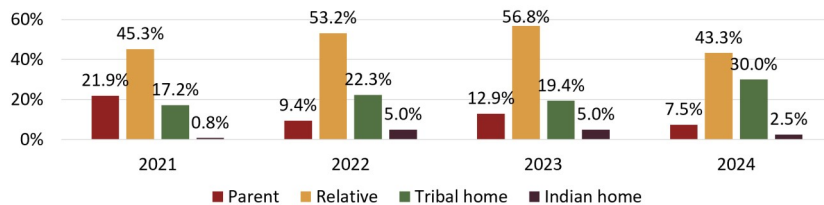
Did the judge find that the agency made active efforts to prevent removal or to return the child to the home?



Was testimony presented to support the active efforts finding?



Type of placement (ICWA compliant)



2021		2022		2023		2024	
Parent	18	Parent	13	Parent	18	Parent	9
Relative	88	Relative	74	Relative	79	Relative	52
Tribal home	32	Tribal home	31	Tribal home	27	Tribal home	36
Indian home	6	Indian home	7	Indian home	7	Indian home	3
Total compliant placements	144	Total compliant placements	125	Total compliant placements	131	Total compliant placements	100

Percentages are out of all placements, not only placements that are ICWA compliant.

Child Placements

In 2024 children remained with the custodial parent on a trial home visit or under protective supervision, or were placed with a noncustodial parent, 7.5% of the time.

Children were placed with relatives 43.3% of the time and placed in Tribal/Tribally-approved homes 30% of the time.

Child Placements (continued)

When a Tribal representative was present at the hearing their placement recommendation was the same as the petitioner's recommendation 98.8% of the time.

In 204 when a child was placed outside of the placement preferences it was in a non-Indian home rather than a treatment facility, shelter, or group home. Good cause to deviate from the placement preferences was found at 100% of the hearings when it was required.

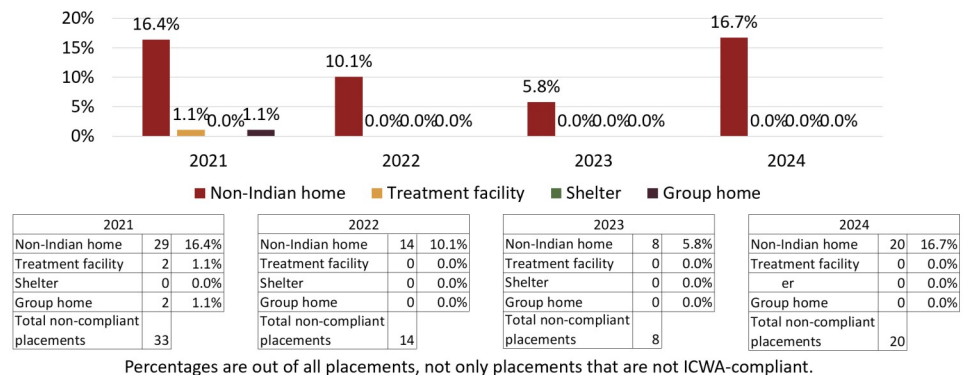
When placement preferences were not followed it was due to the unavailability of relative, Tribal, or Indian homes, or the objection/preference of the parent or child.

When children were not placed with a relative there was a significant increase in discussion regarding why the child could not be placed with a relative from 15.5% in 2021 to 62.7% in 2024.

There was also more discussion regarding how to smoothly transition the child to placement with a relative when possible.

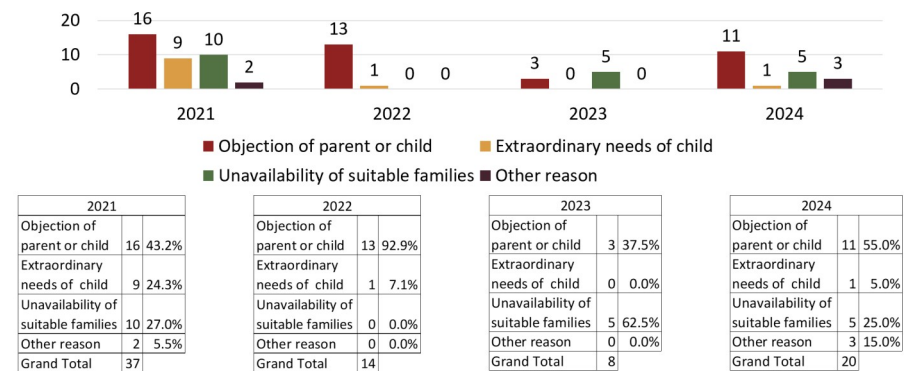
There has been increased discussion about ways to partner with Tribes to locate and support relatives who could be permanent placement options.

Type of placement (not ICWA compliant)

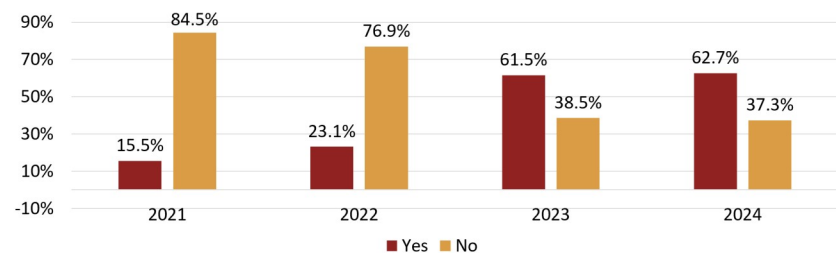


If placement preferences were not followed, why not?

The court made a finding that there was good cause to deviate from placement preferences at 100% of hearings in which it was required.



Was there discussion on the record as to why the child was not placed with a relative?



2021		
Yes	11	15.5%
No	60	84.5%
Grand Total	71	

2022		
Yes	12	23.1%
No	40	76.9%
Grand Total	52	

2023		
Yes	24	61.5%
No	15	38.5%
Grand Total	39	

2024		
Yes	37	62.7%
No	22	37.3%
Grand Total	59	

Ain Dah Yung Center Newsletter

Ain Dah Yung Center has a new newsletter! Keep up to date on everything that is happening at ADYC, learn about upcoming events, and the work we do everyday! View the most recent newsletter and subscribe here: <https://adycenter.org/about/newsletters>

Ain Dah Yung Center's 26th Annual Cherish the Children Traditional Powwow

This year's Cherish the Children Traditional Powwow hosted over 1000 attendees and over 150 dancers over the two days. Trinity Lumbar and Milagro White Face will represent Ain Dah Yung Center as Princess and Brave over the next year. Miigwech to everyone who made the powwow a huge success! See you next year!



About the Quarter 1 Data

Data was collected from January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025. This data was collected by the court monitor at hearings, talking to the parties involved, and reading case files. This data reflects hearings the court monitor attended and does not include all Ramsey County ICWA hearings.

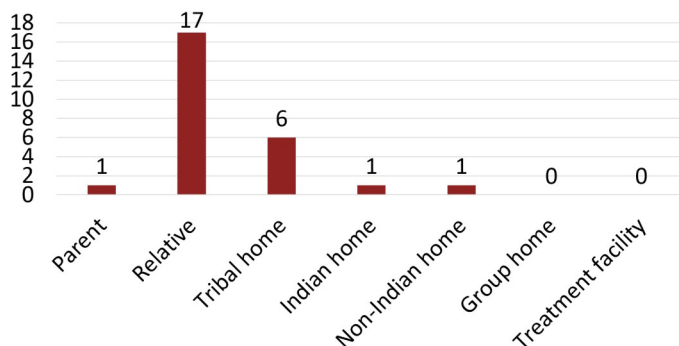
Tribal Attendance

The following chart indicates the tribes involved in ICWA cases in Ramsey County during Quarter 1. The chart includes the tribes involved, the number of hearings that occurred, and the number of times the tribe attended hearings. This data reflects hearings the court monitor attended and does not include all Ramsey County ICWA hearings.

TRIBE	NUMBER OF HEARINGS	TRIBE PRESENT
Bad River Tribe	1	0
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	1	0
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	2	2
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	7	7
Lower Sioux Indian Community	2	2
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	3	3
Oglala Sioux Tribe	1	1
Red Lake Nation	5	5
Rosebud Sioux Tribe	2	2
Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate	2	2
St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin	1	1
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa	1	1
Upper Sioux Community	2	2
White Earth Nation	7	6
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska	2	2
Unknown/Tribe Not Identified	6	-

Placements

Parent	1	3.8%
Relative	17	65.4%
Tribal home	6	23.1%
Indian home	1	3.8%
Non-Indian home	1	3.8%
Group home	0	0.0%
Treatment facility	0	0.0%
Total	26	



Placements and Case Planning

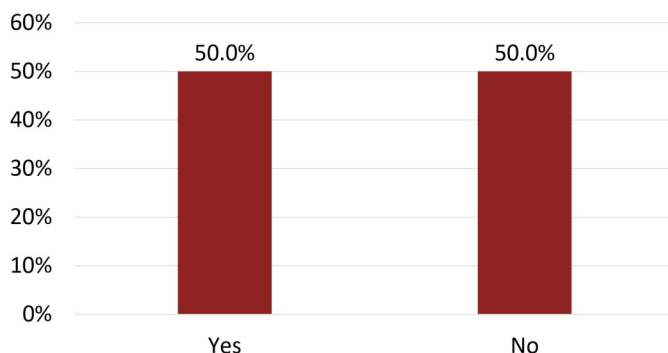
Children in out-of-home placement were placed with relatives 65.4% of the time and in Tribal/Tribally-approved homes 23.1% of the time. The court made a finding that there was good cause to deviate from the ICWA placement preferences finding at the one hearing it was required.

When children were not placed with relatives, there was discussion 50% of the time about the reasons preventing placement with a relative. This includes a lack of appropriate placement options and overcoming barriers to move children into the relative's home.

There was discussion of how Tribes have participated in case planning 71.4% of the time. This includes collaborating on writing case plans, visiting parents and children, and connecting with Tribal resources.

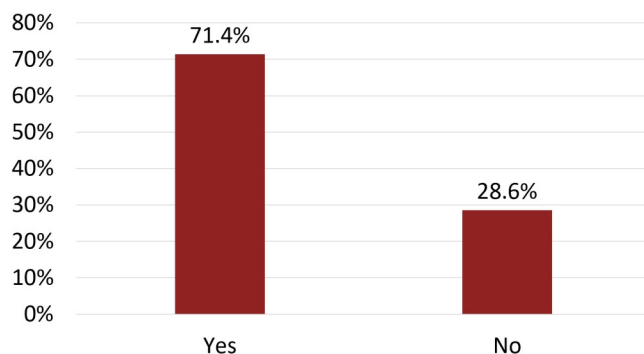
Was there discussion as to why the child was not placed with a relative?

Yes	4	50.0%
No	4	50.0%
Total	8	



Was there a discussion of how the Tribe has been involved in case planning?

Yes	20	71.4%
No	8	28.6%
Total	28	



Contact Information

Sadie Hart

Policy and Advocacy
Director

sadie.hart@adycenter.org

Ain Dah Yung Center
1089 Portland Ave
St Paul, MN 55104
(651) 227-4184

adycenter.org

facebook.com/ADYCenter