

APPENDIX D

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Washington, D.C. 20242

July 26, 1965

Memorandum

To: Area Directors, Superintendents and tribal officials

From: Commissioner

Subject: Determining degree of Indian blood

The question of determining degree of Indian blood of applicants for membership and making corrections of degree of Indian blood shown for enrollees in the records has become a serious problem in enrollment. This is due primarily to the fact that early records either do not show degree of Indian blood or those that do are inconsistent. In a number of cases changes have been made in the degree of Indian blood shown in the records without any indication of who made the change or the basis on which it was determined that the correction was necessary. This situation has prompted this office to establish a uniform procedure to be followed in correcting degree of Indian blood shown in the records.

In the absence of any specifications in constitutions or Federal statutes to the contrary, when compiling membership rolls or passing on enrollment applications, a determination as to the degree of Indian blood possessed by descendants of basic enrollees shall be made on the degree of Indian blood shown for the enrolled ancestor on the basic roll designated in the tribe's constitution, resolution, ordinance, or other document prescribing enrollment requirements, unless the degree of Indian blood has been changed and such change sanctioned by the Commissioner, or his authorized representative. Except where discrepancies are determined to be mathematical errors in computing degree of Indian blood, no changes will be considered unless the basic enrollee or one of his descendants who is an applicant for enrollment questions the degree of Indian blood shown on the basic roll and requests in writing that the degree be changed. When such a written request is received the agency records should be examined and a determination made by the Superintendent on the preponderance of the information reflected in the records. The Superintendent shall forward his findings and copies of the records on which his determination is based to the Area Director. The Area Office staff should check to see if there is any information in the Area Office files in addition to that furnished by the agency. After reviewing all of the records the Area Director shall make his evaluation of the case and submit it with his recommendations

to this office where a final determination will be made. If it is determined that the degree of Indian blood shown in the records should be changed, where necessary an appropriate adjustment will be made in the degree of Indian blood ascribed to all members of the enrollee's family.

In cases where a discrepancy in degree of Indian blood shown on a roll is determined to be the result of a mathematical error in computation, such as one parent being shown as $4/4$ degree, the other parent shown as $3/4$ degree, and their children listed as $5/8$ degree rather than $7/8$, changes will be made by the official approving the roll. The changes will be called to the attention of the tribal officials and a list of the changes and the reasons therefore will be attached to the roll. Great care must be exercised in determining degree of Indian blood, especially where possession of a designated degree of Indian blood of a specific tribe is a requirement for membership. A chart for computing degree of Indian blood may be found in 83 IAM 8. Additional copies of the chart may be obtained from the Tribal Enrollment Section in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In determining degree of Indian blood possessed by illegitimate children only $1/2$ of the degree of Indian blood possessed by the mother may be counted unless paternity has been acknowledged by the purported father or established through the courts. If paternity has been established, the document on which the determination is based should be cited. Statements made by the mother as to the paternity of the child will not be acceptable.

Determining blood degree and showing degree of Indian blood on rolls is covered in detail in the training paper on membership rolls presented at the Tribal Operations Conference in March 1965. Additional copies of the training paper are available.

/s/

James E. Officer
Associate Commissioner