

Section 6:

How Do I Apply to Enroll in My Tribe?



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Summary

After you get a certified copy of your original birth certificate, this section tells you how to go about getting the information you need to contact your tribe about enrollment.

Contents

In this section, you will learn:

- How to enroll in your tribe once you get a certified copy of your original birth certificate.
- How to do genealogical research if you need more information about your Native American heritage before you can enroll.



Once I get a certified copy of my original birth certificate, how do I enroll in my tribe?

It depends on what your birth certificate says.

- If your birth certificate confirms you're Native American and gives you the name of your tribe **or** a particular tribe within a larger nation, such as "Standing Rock Sioux," then you can:

Call the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and ask them for the phone number and address for your tribe. For general BIA information, call (202) 208-3710 or email: OPA@bia.gov. You can also look for your tribe's contact information online at the BIA's Tribal Leaders Directory: <http://www.doi.gov/bia/docs/TLD-Final.pdf>

Then call someone in the enrollment department of your tribe and ask what their enrollment requirements are and what the process is.

- If your birth certificate confirms you are Native American but just says "Indian," "Native," "American Indian" **or** gives you the name of a nation that is made up of many individual tribes (such as Sioux or Cherokee) then you will have to do some genealogical research to find out which specific tribe you may belong to.

TIP: You can trace your ancestry even if your original birth certificate just says "Indian" etc. because you will now have information about your birth parents, like their full names and where they were born.

How do I do genealogical research?

- You can call the BIA and request a copy of their handbook, "Guide to Tracing Your American Indian Ancestry."
- You can call your local CILS office and discuss your situation.

