

**PENOBSCOT NATION IV-D PROGRAM
FAMILY AND CHILD NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

SECTION I. PURPOSE

IV-D Program Intra-Tribal Survey

There are some requirements of 45 CFR 309, Final Rule for Tribal Child Support Programs that require the review of existing tribal law or that may require the creation of new tribal law. In order to make better decisions on these legal issues, the IV-D Program has established this general survey.

SECTION II. INSTRUCTIONS

The purpose of this survey is to capture tribal values, customs and gather information to help us better plan for the needs of the tribe.

SECTION III. STATISTICAL INFORMATION:

Sex: _____ Number of children: _____ Employed: _____ YES _____ NO

Age: _____ Marital Status: _____ Monthly Income: \$ _____

SECTION IV. PATERNITY

1. What paternity services that are provided by the State of Maine would you also want the Penobscot Nation to provide?

2. When paternity was established for your child (ren), did you understand the law/process?

3. Please list a positive and negative experience for each of the below that you have experienced (a-d):
 - a. Acknowledged (voluntary) process:

 - b. DNA testing:

 - c. Court Judgment/Default Judgment:

d. Other (Traditional practice/marital presumption):

4. What role does the extended family play in defining/supporting children of the next generation?

5. How can the Child Support Program support youth and parent education, about paternity matters?

SECTION V: CHILD SUPPORT

1. What child support establishment services that are provided by the State of Maine would you also want the Tribe to provide?

2. What is a reasonable percent of income for parents?

3. Should both parents be expected to work and earn an income? Why?

4. If a parent cannot provide cash support, what else would be a valuable contribution to the family or the child?

5. What “factors” should be considered when establishing a child support obligation?

6. Under what circumstance should a parent not be required to provide financial support for their child (ren)?

7. Why should both parents be equally responsible for and financially support their child (ren)?

8. What can the Child Support Program do to support holistic child support services?

9. How can the Child Support Program support the emotional health of children and ensure that both parents contribute financially for their child (ren)?

SECTION VI: CUSTODY & VISITATION

1. What are the necessary elements to ensuring both parents are involved in their child (ren) lives?
2. What are barriers to parents working together for the benefit of their child (ren)?
3. What services can the Tribe provide to support mediation of contested custody and visitation issues?
4. How does the child (ren)'s extended family participate in their daily/monthly activities?

SECTION VII: ENFORCEMENT

1. What enforcement services that are provided by the State of Maine would you also want the Tribe to provide?
2. If you could not receive all of these enforcement services from the Tribe, would you prefer to keep your case with the State?
3. Have you had any problems or complaints with the current Income Withholding process?
4. Are there other enforcement techniques that the Tribe can provide?
5. What "factors" should be considered to determine the level of enforcement that is appropriate?

SECTION VIII: TRIBAL TRADITIONS & CUSTOMS

Please share your knowledge and family experience and the practices of your elders that the Tribal Child Support Program should take into consideration when addressing the following concerns:

1. Identifying when “support” is due from one family to another:
2. Determining what is “reasonable” support:
3. Sanctions for failing to comply with a Tribal decision:
4. Family and visitation/custody:
5. Do you consider artistic work such as basket making, carving, etc..., hunting or gathering traditional foods such as fiddleheads as a form of support?

OPTIONAL: If you are willing to participate in a Child Support Program Focus Group, please provide the following information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Please save the file to your computer’s desktop, fill out the form, and then email it back to slacoute@penobscotnation.org. Thank You!

