

Mr. T.: I found something in one of the publications that the Department of Welfare seems to indicate to the contrary, where it indicates that the department is clear with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Relationship with other agencies, Family Service and Relief under 184.1 Child. DPM Reissued 3-4-64. And on page 2 in the 4th paragraph the last sentence reads: "It is, therefore, essential that each Indian case be cleared with the respective responsible agency of the Indian or Muskogee areas." And that is in reference to relationship with other agencies. And it appeared to me, at least, that there is some doubt as to the responsible agency is, whether it is the Department of Welfare or the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Reference: Would you care to comment Mrs. Dinger on the issue as the responsibility in determining the eligibility for assistance? Could you clarify this?

Mrs. D.: Well, we have our policies to go by and if a client does not comply with them they are ineligible and we make a decision as to why they are or are not.

Mr. T.: What is the county department of Public Welfare?

Mrs. D.: Yes.

Mr. T.: We are still in the area of coming to the issue and we are not testifying to anything under oath, are we?

Reference: That's correct.

Mr. T.: Do we see if I do understand what seems to be set here. I think it's stated by the Delaware County Welfare Department that the responsibility for the decisions on all recipients in all public assistance cases is the responsibility solely of the Delaware County Welfare Department.

Reference: Is anything said as this being a part of the State Department of Public Welfare?

Mr. T.: I'm just trying to paraphrase Mrs. Dinger's statement, and I'm really sure that is what she means to say.

Mrs. D.: Well, we are governed by the State Office.

Mr. T.: And with the qualification, do I understand you to mean that your decisions on these matters is one in which you are controlled by the Oklahoma Welfare Department and guided by them?

Mrs. D.: We are part of them, yes, they are the guide.

Reference: I see Mr. Delaney standing back there and we might call him up and see if he can contribute anything to identifying the issue here.

In identifying the issue here Mr. Tropp has raised the question in part as to as I understand it, who is responsible for closing Mr. O'Field's case, and is it the Department of Public Welfare or the Bureau of Indian Affairs, or the Delaware County Department of Public Welfare in particular?

Mr. D.: The Delaware County Office takes the action and the basis of the action is the policy of the Oklahoma Department of Public Welfare and the Commission complies with Federal and State Policies. The Bureau of Indian Affairs had nothing to do with this other than notifying us of Mr. O'Field's name and recommending the continuation of hardship basis that the action to close the case was the Oklahoma Department of Public Welfare Policy's execution. It was done on a local level but it is State Policy being carried out.