



DEFERENCE BETWEEN CDIB AND TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP

Category	Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB)	CNO Tribal Membership
Issuing Authority	Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Tahihina Agency	Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO)
Purpose	Verifies Native American ancestry by documenting direct lineage to an ancestor on the Final Rolls of the Dawes Commission.	Verifies Native American ancestry by documenting direct lineage to an ancestor on the Final Rolls of the Dawes Commission and establishes official tribal membership within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.
Eligibility	Open to individuals with documented ancestry by blood from any of the Five Tribes (Choctaw, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Muscogee Creek, and Seminole). Multiple tribal lineages can be listed.	Only available to individuals of Choctaw descent by blood who can trace direct lineage to an ancestor on the Final Rolls of the Dawes Commission. Membership is exclusive to one tribe at a time.
Application Process	Processed by the BIA Tahihina Agency. Requires proof of ancestry linking to a Dawes enrollee.	Processed by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Requires proof of ancestry linking to a Dawes enrollee.
Usage & Benefits	Used for Native American verification and eligibility for certain federal and tribal programs. May be recognized by external agencies for Native American benefits.	Tribal membership verifies Native American status and may be recognized by external agencies for certain benefits. It grants rights and privileges within the Choctaw Nation, including access to CNO services, eligibility for programs requiring federally recognized tribal membership, and the ability to vote in tribal elections if registered.
Verification	Issued as a letter-sized document listing total blood quantum and all associated tribal lineages. A smaller CDIB card contains a snapshot of this information.	Verified through a Chahta Akshish Lineage Document (coming soon) with full personal details and lineage, CNO Membership card containing basic personal details (name, date of birth, address) or a Membership Verification Letter from the Tribal Membership Department.

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