



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CDIB AND A TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP?

Category	Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB)	CNO Tribal Membership
Issuing Authority	Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Talihina 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.	Establishes official tribal membership with 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	Overseen by the BIA and facilitation by corresponding Tribe. Requires proof of ancestry linking to a Dawes enrollee.	Processed by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and requires an approved CDIB before applying for membership.
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.	Grants rights and privileges within the Choctaw Nation, including the ability to vote in tribal elections (if registered), access CNO-administered services, and meet eligibility requirements for external programs recognizing federally recognized tribal membership.
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 CNO Membership card containing basic personal details (name, date of birth, address) or a Membership Verification Letter from the Tribal Membership Department.