

**TITLE 25 - INDIANS****CHAPTER 10 - DESCENT AND DISTRIBUTION; HEIRS OF ALLOTTEE****§ 372a. Heirs by adoption**

In probate matters under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior, no person shall be recognized as an heir of a deceased Indian by virtue of an adoption—

- (1) Unless such adoption shall have been—
  - (a) by a judgment or decree of a State court;
  - (b) by a judgment or decree of an Indian court;
  - (c) by a written adoption approved by the superintendent of the agency having jurisdiction over the tribe of which either the adopted child or the adoptive parent is a member, and duly recorded in a book kept by the superintendent for that purpose; or
  - (d) by an adoption in accordance with a procedure established by the tribal authority, recognized by the Department of the Interior, of the tribe either of the adopted child or the adoptive parent, and duly recorded in a book kept by the tribe for that purpose; or
- (2) Unless such adoption shall have been recognized by the Department of the Interior prior to the effective date of this section or in the distribution of the estate of an Indian who has died prior to that date: Provided, That an adoption by Indian custom made prior to the effective date of this section may be made valid by recordation with the superintendent if both the adopted child and the adoptive parent are still living, if the adoptive parent requests that the adoption be recorded, and if the adopted child is an adult and makes such a request or the superintendent on behalf of a minor child approves of the recordation.

This section shall not apply with respect to the distribution of the estates of Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes or the Osage Tribe in the State of Oklahoma, or with respect to the distribution of estates of Indians who have died prior to the effective date of this section.

(July 8, 1940, ch. 555, §§ 1, 2, 54 Stat. 746.)

**References in Text**

For effective date of this section, referred to in text, see Effective Date note set out below.

**Codification**

First and second paragraphs of this section are from sections 1 and 2, respectively, of act July 8, 1940.

**Effective Date**

Section 3 of act July 8, 1940, provided that: "This Act shall become effective six months after the date of its approval [July 8, 1940]."

**Transfer of Functions**

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of the Interior, with certain exceptions, to Secretary of the Interior, with power to delegate, see Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1950, §§ 1, 2, eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3174, 64 Stat. 1262, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.