



IN REPLY REFER TO

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Eastern Oklahoma Region
Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office
P.O. Box 8002
Muskogee, OK 74402-8002

Choctaw Liaison

MAR 27 2018

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Shelby Burks Ward

Dear Mrs. Ward:

This letter is in reference to your application for a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB). Thank you for your interest in trying to certify your degree of Indian Blood with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

In order to be certified with a blood degree, you must prove back to an ancestor who is listed with a blood degree on the *Final Rolls of Citizens and Freedman of the Five Civilized Tribes*. This office regrets to inform you that a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood cannot be issued to you for the following reason:

- **Records for Earnestine McCoy, Choctaw Roll No. 4861, show that she was enrolled as a Choctaw Freedman with no blood degree.**

Because you were unable to verify direct lineage to an enrollee who is listed with a Blood Degree on The Index and Final Rolls of Citizens and Freedmen of the Choctaw Tribe, approved June 21, 1906 (34 Stat. 137), this office is unable to issue a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood to you.

This decision may be appealed to the Regional Director, Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, P.O. Box 8002, Muskogee, Oklahoma 74402-8002, in accordance with the regulations in 25 CFR Part 62 (copy enclosed).

Your notice of appeal may be filed by mail or filed by personal delivery, and must be received in this office within thirty (30) days of the date you receive this decision. The date of filing your notice to appeal is the date it is received in this office.

Your notice of appeal should clearly identify the decision being appealed. If possible attach a copy of the decision. The Notice and the Envelope in which it is being mailed should be clearly labeled "Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood Appeal."

Respectfully,



Deputy Regional Director

Enclosure