

Medical Attention for Natives Away from Home in the Plans

Immediate medical attention for Alaskan Natives away from home will be provided by the Public Health Service under a plan requested by Alaska Senator Ted Stevens.

A system of identification cards is being prepared which Stevens said would serve as a "means of identification to any public health facility for an Alaskan Native traveling outside of the state."

Under this plan, Alaskan Natives not living in Alaska would have access to the same public health facilities as Indians outside of Alaska.

In non-Indian or non-native areas, Alaskan natives would be entitled access to available facilities. Both the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Social Security Administration are reported to have agreed to cooperate in the program.

Social Security account numbers would be used in the identification system for all Alaskan Natives and Indians.

"The identification card issued to the individual," Stevens said, "would allow for immediate medical attention and should serve to expedite processing and reduce transcription errors at the

facility at the time of the individuals application for health services."