

Court Staff

APPELLATE COURT

Chief Justice

Hon. Tricia A. Zunker

Justices, Pro Tempore

Hon. Todd R. Matha

Hon. Chad Gordon, Esq.

TRIAL COURT

Chief Judge

VACANT

Judges

Hon. Christopher Nydle, Associate Judge

Hon. Joseph Plumer, Pro Tempore

Hon. Todd R. Matha, Pro Tempore

Court Administrator

VACANT

ca.court@meskwakicourt.org

Clerk of Court & Clerk of Court of Appeals

Angelica Diaz

clerk.court@meskwakicourt.org

◆ Deputy Clerk

D. Suzanne Buffalo

sbuffalo@meskwakicourt.org

◆ Asst. Deputy Clerk

VACANT

adminast.court@meskwakicourt.org

◆ Records Management Clerk

Kiyanna Pushetonequa

PROBATION

Mark Doland, Probation Officer

probation.court@meskwakicourt.org

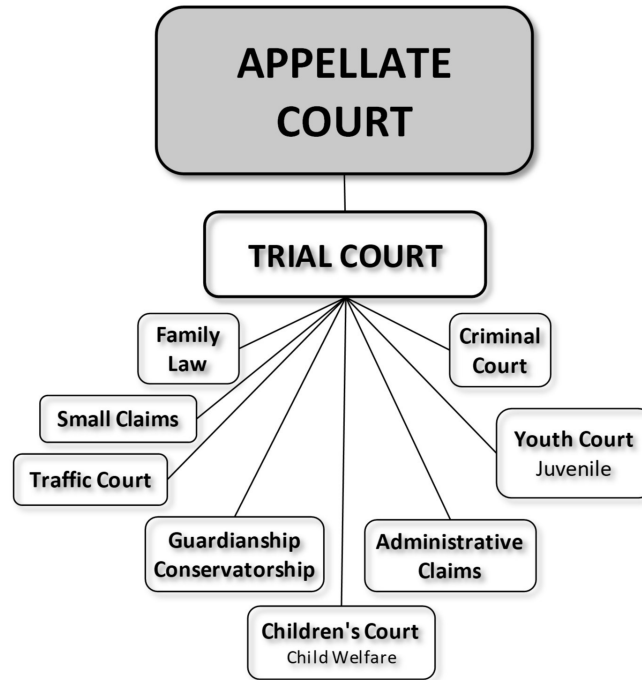
Alanna Holiday-Brown, Juv. Corrections Officer

jco.court@meskwakicourt.org

PUBLIC DEFENDER (641)481-0496

By Court Appointment Only

Cynthia Tofflemire ct.pd@meskwaki-nsn.gov



Meskwaki Tribal Court

Sac & Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa
Tribal Court

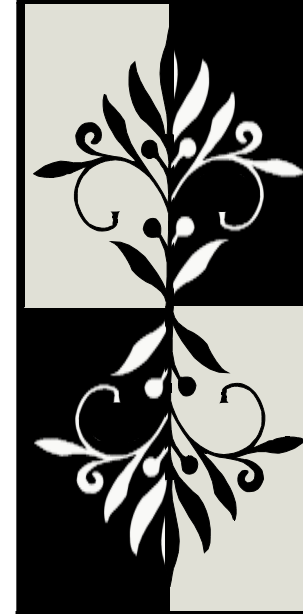
Meskwaki Justice Center
307 Meskwaki Rd
Tama, IA 52339

Website: www.meskwakicourt.org

Telephone: (641) 484-9300

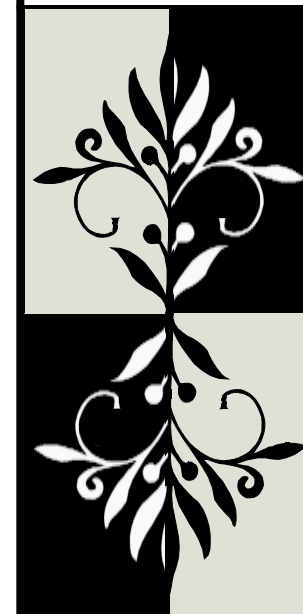
Fax: (641) 484-2221

Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa



Meskwaki Tribal Court

Ki-me-nwi-to-ta-ti-ba



*“Be Good
To Each
Other”*

Meskwaki Indian Settlement
Tama, Iowa

E-na-ko-ni-ke-ki:

The way things are laid out for us to do

TRIBAL COURT MISSION:

To administer justice according to laws that govern the Meskwaki Nation by exercising all judicial and dispute resolution powers of the Tribe.

OBJECTIVES

TITLE 5, ARTICLE II, CHAPTER 1, SECTION 5-2103 SETS OUT THE COURT'S MISSION AND GOALS, AND STATES:

“Except where limited by laws of the Tribe, it shall be the objective of the Tribal Court and the duty of all judges and justices of the Tribal Court in resolving all matters before the Tribal Court **to discover and determine the truth, and to the extent possible, to seek a resolution which restores balance to the community in accordance with the customs and traditions of the Tribe, repairs relationships, results in fairness, and avoids principles of retribution and punishment.**”

PRINCIPLES

To develop an efficient judicial system which meets the judicial needs of both the tribal community and its government;

To provide due process and fairness to all parties involved in cases;

To promote Tribal self-government, community development, peace, public safety, and the human potential of all persons;

To develop judicial institutions and judicial tools which reflect the Tribe's culture, traditions and values;

To provide an independent system for the advancement of justice under the laws of the Tribe;

The Tribal Court of the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa was established by the Tribal Council and enacted on June 9, 2004 and heard its first case in 2005.

Many different types of civil cases are filed in Tribal Court, including but not limited to:

Divorce Paternity Name Change
Custody Damages Adoption
Foreign Judgment Protection Orders
Guardianship or Conservatorship (Minors, Vulnerable Adults)
Child Welfare - *Child In Need of Assistance (CINA)*
Child Support - *includes MNCSS Title IV-D cases*

Filing Fees are required to establish most types of cases (see the Filing Fee Schedule located at www.meskwakicourt.org). Some fees can be waived if an application requesting a waiver is approved by the Court.

Small Claims Court has an independent set of rules and processes and is for actions under \$5,000.

Administrative claims supplement the processes in place throughout Tribal Operations and provide avenues of judicial review for claimants allowed by the Code.

Marriage applications and licenses can be obtained at the Clerk of Court's office.

Criminal cases that are filed against Native Americans by Meskwaki Nation Police Department are heard in Tribal Court and involve misdemeanor offenses alleged to occur on Meskwaki Tribal land. Defendants in criminal cases may apply for a Tribal Public Defender if determined by income qualifications.

A **Probation Office** supervises adult individuals ordered to pretrial supervision or probation by Tribal Court, develops alternative sentencing options, organizes community service, coordinates educational and skill building programming, and re-entry services. The Probation Office also oversees full implementation of the Youth Justice Code (Title 20), adopted August 2017. This judicial forum is to address the actions of minors under 18 years old concerning alleged delinquency acts, but also any juvenile acts not rising to the level of delinquency that are not a result of parental neglect or abuse. Probation can offer diversion services, informal services, and formal case referral services.

Title 18. Transportation regulates traffic laws on and through the Meskwaki Settlement. Civil traffic cases involving moving violations and also criminal traffic cases, such as OWI, are heard in Tribal Court.

Title 24. Domestic Violence, enacted January 2013, was adopted to ensure the safety of victims of domestic/family violence and to provide victims with the maximum protection from abuse and/or violence. Court Staff enter protection orders into the National crime Information Center (NCIC) database and the orders are enforceable everywhere.

The Tribe's **CODE = LAWS** are located at **Meskwaki Nation Website:**

★ www.meskwaki.org

To see the laws, go to home page, select “Who We Are”, then select “Constitution”

ENACTED TITLES OF TRIBAL CODE

Title 1. General Provisions
Title 2. Administration
Title 3. Business & Profession
Title 4. Commercial
Title 5. Dispute Resolution
Title 6. Family Relations (*includes the Tribal Child Support Act*)
Title 7. Child Welfare
Title 8. Elections
Title 9. Employment & Labor
Title 10. Enrollment
Title 11. Gaming
Title 12. Health & Safety
Title 13. Law & Order
Title 14. Natural Resources
Title 15. (*Reserved*)
Title 16. Property
Title 17. Taxation
Title 18. Transportation
Title 19. Judicial Validation
Title 20. Youth Justice
Title 21. Liquor Control
Title 22. Exclusion
Title 23. Guardianship & Conservatorship
Title 24. Domestic Violence
and
Constitution and ByLaws of the Tribe

Visit the Court's Website to view forms and information, and the Court's **Rules of Procedure** :

www.meskwakicourt.org



Office Window Hours (Central Standard Time)
Monday through Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm