

Court Staff

APPELLATE COURT

Chief Justice

Hon. Henry Buffalo, Jr.
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Associate Justices

Hon. Robert Kittecon, *Pro Tempore*
Menominee Nation of Wisconsin
Hon. Andrew J. Pyatskowitz, *Pro Tempore*
Menominee Nation of Wisconsin

TRIAL COURT

Chief Judge

Hon. Jessica R. Bear
S&F of the Miss. in Iowa (Meskwaki)

Associate Judge

Hon. Joseph Plumer
Leech Lake Band of Chippewa

Court Administrator

Joy R. Mauskemo
ca.court@meskwakicourt.org

Clerk of Court & Clerk of Court of Appeals

Deputy Clerk

D. Suzanne Buffalo
sbuffalo@meskwakicourt.org

Assistant Deputy Clerk

Linda Morgan
adminast.court@meskwakicourt.org

Records Management Clerk

Samantha Roberts
records@meskwakicourt.org

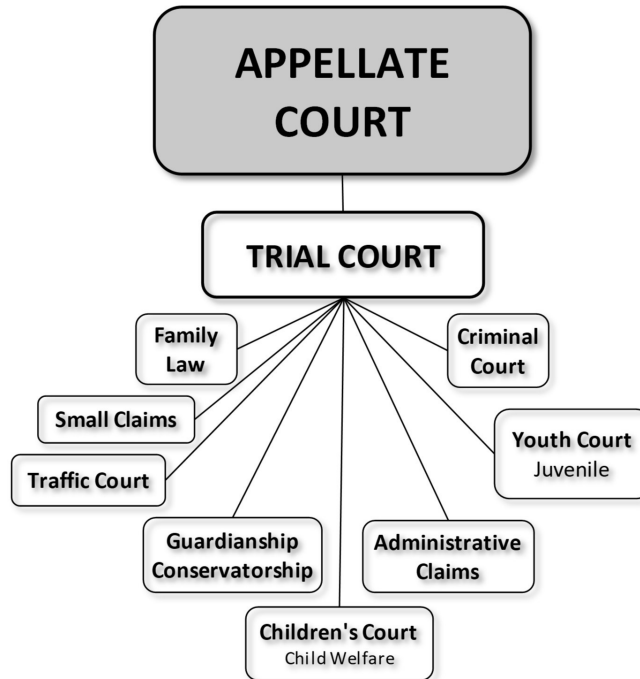
PROBATION OFFICE (641) 484-9285

Misty Jefferson, Probation Officer
mjjefferson@meskwakicourt.org

OTHER SERVICES

PUBLIC DEFENDER ... By Court Appointment Only

Cynthia Tofflemire (641) 484-9214
ct.pd@meskwaki-nsn.gov



Meskwaki Tribal Court

Sac & Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa
Tribal Court

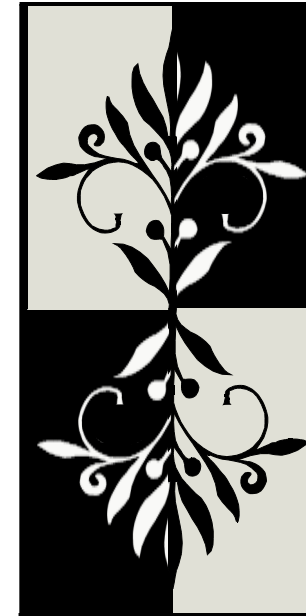
Meskwaki Justice Center
307 Meskwaki Rd
Tama, IA 52339

Website: www.meskwakicourt.org

Telephone: (641) 484-9300

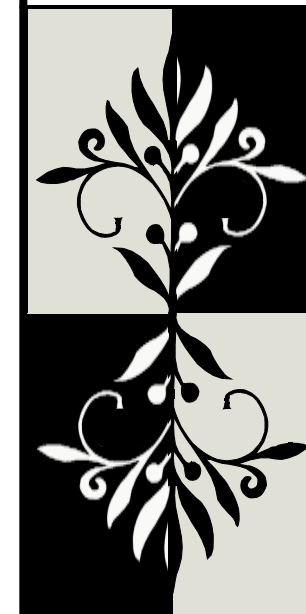
Fax: (641) 484-2221

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;

To operate as a Learning organization that actively practices and promotes process-thinking.

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.

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, Adults)		
Child Welfare - <i>Child In Need of Assistance (CINA)</i>		
Child Support - <i>includes MNCSS Title IV-D cases</i>		

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.

A **Tribal 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. **ACTV classes** are available for batterers education matters, either as part of a sentence or on a voluntary basis.

A **Juvenile Probation Office** 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. Officer 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.

The Tribe's Code - **LAWS** - are located at **Meskwaki Nation Website:**

★ www.meskwaki.org

Go to home page, scroll to very bottom to “Extra Links” and select “Constitution, Codes & Bylaws”

- 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

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

www.meskwakicourt.org



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