

## Court Staff

### APPELLATE COURT

**Chief Justice:** Hon. Tricia A. Zunker

#### Justices, Pro Tempore

*Appointed as Needed*

### TRIAL COURT

**Chief Judge:** Hon. Christopher Nydle

#### Judges

(VACANT), Associate Judge

Hon. Joseph Plumer, Pro Tempore

Hon. Todd R. Matha, Pro Tempore

#### Court Administrator

Angelica Diaz

ca.court@meskwakicourt.org

#### Clerk of Court & Clerk of Court of Appeals

Bree Davidson

clerk.court@meskwakicourt.org

#### ♦ Deputy Clerk

D. Suzanne Buffalo

sbuffalo@meskwakicourt.org

#### ♦ Asst. Deputy Clerk

Mercedes Navarro

adminast.court@meskwakicourt.org

#### ♦ Records Management Clerk

Kiyanna Pushetonequa

kpushetonequa@meskwakicourt.org

#### ♦ Justice Strategic Planning Manager

Sean Bear, Sr.

sbear@meskwakicourt.org

### JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICE

**(641) 484-9300** (Located at Tribal Court building)

Alanna Holiday-Brown, JCO Juv. Corrections Officer

jco.court@meskwakicourt.org

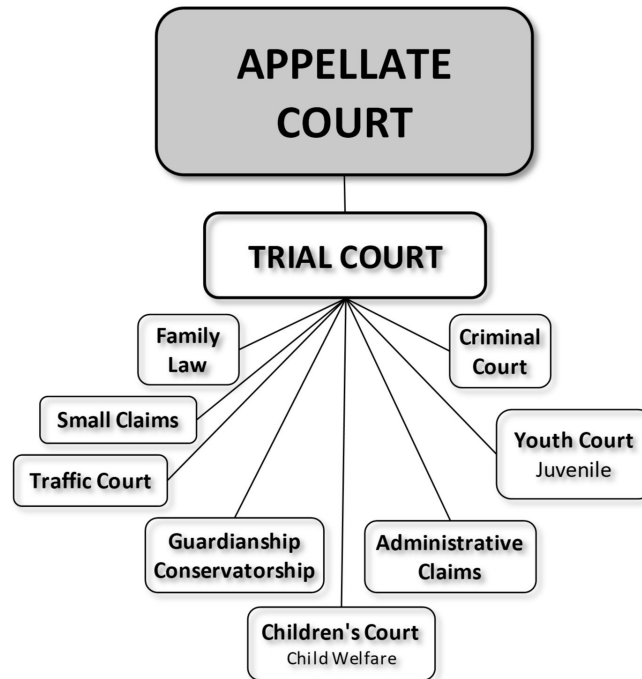
### Adult Probation Office (641) 484-4844

(Located at MNPD Office, probationers contact MNPD directly)

### Tribal Public Defender (641) 481-0496

(Appointments limited to specific types of cases, determined by Judge)

Cynthia Tofflemire ct.pd@meskwaki-nsn.gov



### Meskwaki Tribal Court

Sac & Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa  
Tribal Court

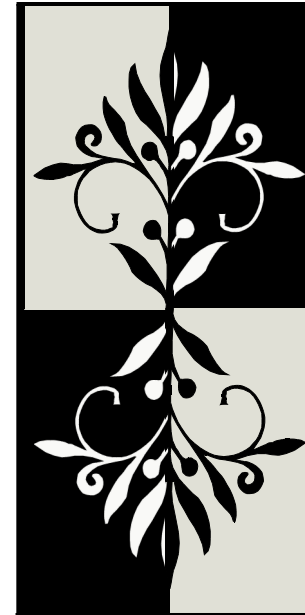
Meskwaki Justice Center  
307 Meskwaki Rd  
Tama, IA 52339

Website: [www.meskwakicourt.org](http://www.meskwakicourt.org)

Telephone: (641) 484-9300

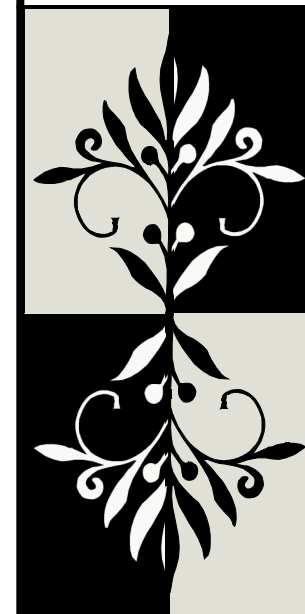
Fax: (641) 484-2221

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

## 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	Custody	Name Change
Adoption	Child Support	Small Claims
Foreign Judgments	Protection Orders	
Guardianship or Conservatorship (Minors, Vulnerable Adults)		
Child Welfare - <i>Child In Need of Assistance (CINA)</i>		

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

**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. See residency requirements.

**Criminal cases** that are filed against Native Americans by Meskwaki Nation Police Department are heard in Tribal Court that involve **misdemeanor** offenses alleged to occur on Meskwaki Tribal land. Defendants in criminal cases can request a court-appointed attorney, eligible income guidelines apply. All Defendants are able to privately retain their own legal counsel.

A **Probation Officer** 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 **Juvenile Corrections Officer (JCO)** oversees implementation of the Youth Justice Code (Title 20). This judicial forum is to address 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. The **JCO** an offer diversion services, informal services, & 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**, 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. Since 2018, court staff has been certified to enter protection orders and warrants into the national NCIC database via the Tribal Access Program (TAP), making all tribal

Tribal **LAWS** are located at  
**Meskwaki Nation Website:**



**[www.meskwaki.org](http://www.meskwaki.org)**

To see the laws, at 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 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. Water Quality Standards  
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  
Title 25. Agriculture  
Constitution & Bylaws of the Tribe

Visit the Court's Website to view  
forms and information, and the  
Court's **Rules of Procedure** :  
**[www.meskwakicourt.org](http://www.meskwakicourt.org)**



Office hours (Central Standard Time)  
Monday through Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Visit court website for any closure announcements  
and weekly hearing schedule in “Court Docket”