

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

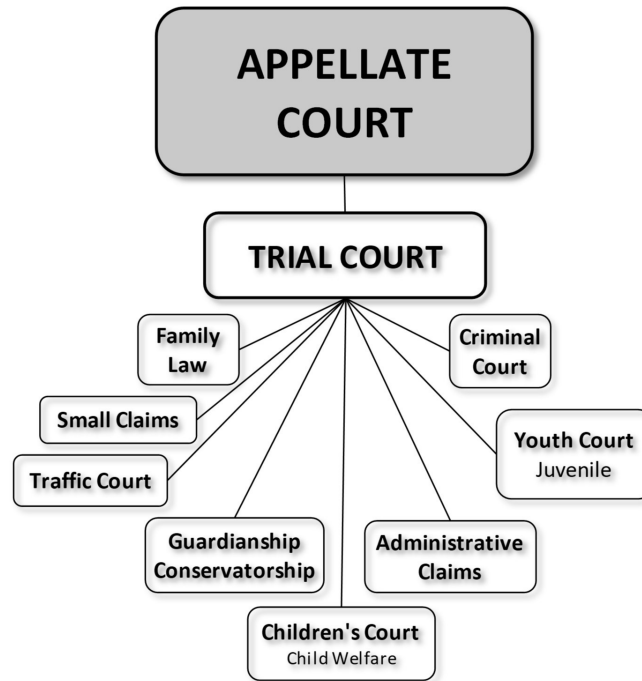
PROBATION OFFICE (641) 484-9300

JCO Alanna Holiday-Brown, Juv. Corrections Officer
jco.court@meskwakicourt.org

(VACANT), Adult Probation Officer
probation.court@meskwakicourt.org

PUBLIC DEFENDER (641) 481-0496

(Only appointed by a Judge for specific types Of cases)
Cynthia Tofflemire ct.pd@meskwaki-nsn.gov



Meskwaki Tribal Court

Sac & Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa
Tribal Court

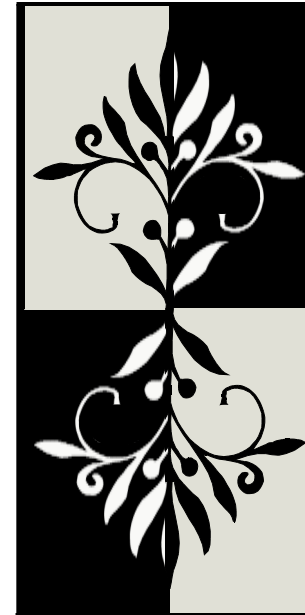
Meskwaki Justice Center
307 Meskwaki Rd
Tama, IA 52339

Website: www.meskwakicourt.org

Telephone: (641) 484-9300

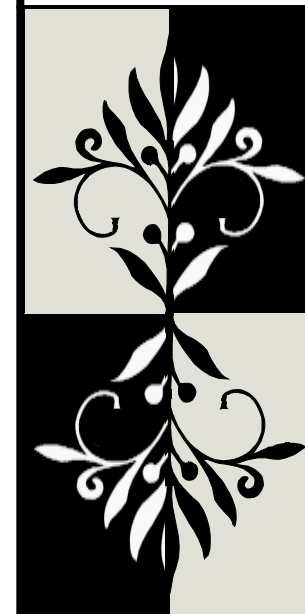
Fax: (641) 484-2221

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

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). 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** 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 orders confirmable and enforceable EVERYWHERE.

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



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. (*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
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



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”