



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
POLICIES & PROCEDURES**



POLICY NUMBER	
ADM:05	
EFFECTIVE DATE: 05/31/2009	ORIGINAL ISSUED ON: 05/31/2009
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SUBJECT: STATE-TRIBAL COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to promote effective communication and collaboration between the Department of Public Safety and Indian Nations, Tribes or Pueblos. It is the goal of the DPS to promote cultural competency in providing effective services to American Indians or Alaska Natives and ensure all DPS employees are notified of the provisions of the State-Tribal Collaboration Act.

2.0 POLICY

The Department of Public Safety shall make a reasonable effort to collaborate with Indian Nations, Tribes or Pueblos in the development and implementation of policies, agreements, and programs of DPS that directly affect American Indians or Alaska Natives.

3.0 APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all employees of the Department of Public Safety.

4.0 REFERENCES

- A. State-Tribal Collaboration Act**
- B. US Code: Title 18, 1153**

5.0 DEFINITIONS

A. American Indian or Alaska Native –

1. Individuals who are members of any federally recognized Indian Tribe, Nation or Pueblo.
2. Individuals who would meet the definition of “Indian” pursuant to 18 USC 1153.
3. Individuals who have been deemed eligible for services and programs provided to American Indians and Alaska Natives by the United States public health service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs or other federal programs.

B. DPS – The Department of Public Safety.

C. Indian Nation, Tribe or Pueblo – Any federally recognized Indian Nation, Tribe or Pueblo located wholly or partially in New Mexico.

D. Secretary – DPS Cabinet Secretary

- E. Tribal liaison** – A DPS employee appointed by the Secretary of DPS. The liaison shall report directly to the DPS Secretary in all matters related to the State-Tribal Collaboration Act.

6.0 PROCEDURE

A. Agency Responsibilities

The DPS has several duties when interacting with the various Indian Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos in the state. These duties include:

1. Promote effective collaboration and communication.
2. Promote positive government-to-government relations.
3. Promote cultural competency in providing effective services to American Indians or Alaska Natives.
4. Ensure employees are notified of all provisions of the State-Tribal Collaboration Act.
5. Make a reasonable effort to collaborate with Indian Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos in the development and implementation of policies, agreements and programs that directly affect American Indians or Alaska Natives.

B. Employee Duties

DPS managers and employees who have ongoing communication with Indian Nations, Tribes or Pueblos shall complete training which will be provided by the State Personnel Office with assistance from the Indian Affairs Department. The training will include the following:

1. Promotion of effective communication and collaboration between DPS and Indian Nations, Tribes or Pueblos.
2. Development of positive state-tribal government-to-government relations.
3. Cultural competency in providing effective services to American Indians or Alaska Natives.

C. Tribal Liaison Duties

DPS shall designate a tribal liaison, who reports directly to the Secretary of DPS. Their duties will include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Assist the DPS Secretary with developing and ensuring the implementation of this policy.
2. Serve as a contact person who shall maintain ongoing communication between the state agency and affected Indian Nations, Tribes or Pueblos.
3. Ensure that training is provided to the staff of DPS as set forth in this policy. Nothing in this policy shall preclude tribal liaisons from providing or facilitating additional training.

