



---

# MEMORANDUM

---

TO: Tule River Indian Tribal Council

FROM: Chelsea James, Director of Judicial Services   
AND  
Paul Tsosie, Chief Judge Tule River Indian Tribal Courts 

DATE: September 27, 2024

RE: Provisions to Tribal Court Restraining Orders for Mandatory Tribal Council Meetings or Hearings

---

On September 19, 2024, the Tule River Indian Tribal Council held a meeting to resolve an issue with court ordered restraining orders. Those present on behalf of the Tule River Indian Tribal Courts were Director of Judicial Services Chelsea James and Chief Judge Paul Tsosie. The specific issue was potential amendments or exceptions to court ordered restraining orders when there is official business being conducted, through mandatory meetings, in the Tribal Council chambers.

Specifically, pursuant to Title 2-Tribal Government Code, Chapter 3-Tribal Council, Section 3.01-Tribal Council Rules of Order, § (F)-Notice to Appear and Show Cause, the Tribal Council schedules mandatory hearings. However, the required parties often have restraining orders issued against them from the Tule River Indian Tribal Court. As a result, both parties cannot attend the Tribal Council's mandatory hearing because the Tribal Court order prohibits any contact and/or communication.

In the September 19, 2024, meeting, the Tribal Court representatives and the Tribal Council met to discuss potential solutions. The Tribal Court will now insert the following language into all restraining orders:

- a. Attendance at mandatory meetings called by the Tule River Indian Tribal Council shall not violate this Order. This includes, but is not limited to exclusion hearings, restraining orders, and other mandatory hearings.

- b. In preparation for any mandatory hearing called by the Tule River Indian Tribal Council, the parties are Ordered to contact the Tule River Indian Tribal Administration to find out if the mandatory hearing(s) will be held virtually (via Zoom or other virtual service) to minimize the chance of contact at any mandatory hearing.

Using these two provisions, the Tribal Court will ensure that all parties are not prohibited from attending mandatory Tribal Council meetings and/or minimize the risk of contact at the mandatory Tribal Council meetings. Furthermore, all current restraining orders will be amended to include these provisions. If any party disagrees with these provisions being inserted into their restraining orders, they will have 14 days to file an objection.

The Tribal Court looks forward to working with the Tribal Council in improving the systems and processes of the Tule River Indian Tribe to provide maximum quality services to those subject to the jurisdiction of the Court. If there are any questions or concerns, please let us know immediately.