



## POLICY DIRECTIVE

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Policy:           | <b>DOC 1.1.11 DEPARTMENT AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS</b> |
| Effective Date:   | 07/01/2007 <span style="float: right;">Page 1 of 1</span>    |
| Revision Date(s): | 05/20/2021; 04/24/2026                                       |
| Signature/Title:  | /s/ Eric Strauss, Director                                   |

### I. POLICY

The Department recognizes the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians and is committed to maintaining the government-to-government relationship with the recognized tribal governments of Montana by inter-departmental communication, policy and procedure development, and implementing programs for the greater good of tribal members and all Montana citizens.

### II. APPLICABILITY

All divisions, facilities, and programs.

### III. DEFINITIONS (see Glossary)

### IV. REQUIREMENTS

#### A. General Requirements

1. The Department will consider impacts on tribal members and tribal governments when developing policies, procedures, and Department programs.
2. The Department will make reasonable efforts to consult with tribal representatives to discuss issues and attempt to resolve tribal concerns when this can be accomplished without jeopardizing Department, public, and offender safety and security.
3. The Department's indigenous liaison will serve as:
  - a. the technical and cultural authority to provide ongoing culturally competent consultation and guidance to Department staff; and
  - b. the primary point of contact between the Department and tribal entities.
4. The Department will provide cultural training to Department staff on the unique nature of individual tribal governments, including knowledge of, and sensitivity to, issues of tribal culture, relations, and legal status.
5. Facility and program administrators will keep the Department's indigenous liaison apprised of issues that involve tribal interests or require tribal and Department participation.

### V. CLOSING

Questions about this policy should be directed to the Department's indigenous liaison.

### VI. REFERENCES

- A. §§ 18-11-101; 2-15-141; 2-15-142; 2-15-143; 53-30-302, MCA