



Wabanaki Legal News

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A Newsletter of Pine Tree Legal Assistance

Winter 2005

A number of the articles in this edition focus on legal issues confronting kids.

Juvenile Justice: A Team-Child Approach

By Sara Meerse, Esq.

KIDS Legal Aid of Maine at Pine Tree Legal Assistance has a grant to work with Penobscot Indian Nation juveniles facing charges in tribal court or state court. If you are member of any Indian Tribe and have concerns about your child, please call us. You can reach us toll-free at **1-866-624-7787**. You can also get information from our website at www.kidslegalaids.org/. We will work together with the Native American Unit to provide you services.



Our goal is to make sure a child's needs are being identified and met. Children who are "at risk" are those kids who may not graduate from high school, may risk going to jail or face other barriers that will keep them from being successful in life. Through "Team-Child," attorneys at KIDS can screen for risk factors a child is facing and then address those factors. By doing so, a child will have a better chance of stopping delinquent behaviors and being successful in life.

How can we do this? If there are not enough juvenile defense attorneys, we can represent the juvenile in the court case. If an attorney is working with the juvenile in the court case, we can look at related issues, like school, medical, and housing. By doing this, we will look at the whole child and not just the child's behavior that brought him to court. For example, if a child is facing expulsion at school, we can represent the child at the expulsion hearing. If the family is facing an eviction, we can represent the family in court. If the child needs mental health services but MaineCare won't approve it, we can appeal the denial with the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHS). Of course, we can only take cases where there is a legal right to services and where there is a defense. So, we need to look at the case to see if we can help.

Here are some examples of cases we have done in Cumberland County under the Team-Child approach.

M's mother was referred to KIDS by a Judge after the Judge found out that M was not allowed to go to school. Instead, he was getting just 2 hours of tutoring a day. He would only earn 2 credits for high school graduation instead of 5 like his fellow students, making him have to go to high school for at least one extra year. M is a special education student. A KIDS attorney went to a PET meeting with M and his mother. After that meeting, M returned to school, got tutoring to make up for classes he missed, and was referred to community agencies for

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Pine Tree's Native American Unit is Restructured

The Native American Unit of Pine Tree Legal Assistance has been restructured. Although we will no longer have a full-time attorney in the NAU working out of Bangor, there are many advantages to this new structure. Perhaps most importantly, we will have several experienced attorneys around the state working in or close to the Native communities. They will be able to maintain a strong visible presence in those communities, respond quickly to issues that develop, and be ready to meet and consult with you in person when necessary.

Judy Plano, who had been the full-time NAU attorney based in Bangor since June of 2002, has transferred to Pine Tree's Augusta office. She very much enjoyed working full-time on Native legal issues, but the transfer to Augusta means she is close to home and saves her the long commute every day. She will continue to devote some of her time to Native issues.

Paul Thibeault has been hired as an attorney in our Machias office. He has many years of experience practicing law in Indian country. He will devote much of his time to providing legal services to the Passamaquoddy communities at Indian Township and Pleasant Point.

Jeff Ashby and Courtney Lockwood are attorneys in our Presque Isle office. Over the past few years they have helped many members of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs and Houlton Band of Maliseets in a variety of legal issues. They will continue to do so.

Mike Guare and Eric Nelson are attorneys and Danny Mills is the paralegal in our Bangor office. They have worked part-time in the NAU for several years. Eric serves as the directing attorney of the unit.

If you have legal questions, please call the Native American Unit toll-free at **1-800-879-7463** and you will be referred to the attorney or paralegal who can help you. If you have ideas on how we can better serve Native people in Maine, please let us know.



Paul Thibeault Comes Back to Pine Tree To Staff Machias Office



In January of this year, Paul Thibeault came back to Pine Tree Legal Assistance after a 15-year absence. During his time away from Pine Tree, Paul acquired

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case management and counseling services.

K contacted KIDS because she was homeless and out of school. She had a juvenile charge against her and we got a juvenile defense attorney to represent her. A KIDS attorney was appointed as her GAL in the juvenile case. We argued for her to be placed in a therapeutic group home since she was homeless and she needed mental health services too. We also represented her in school meetings to make sure she could go to school, get the right special ed services, and go to summer school to make up for time she missed. She graduated from high school and is going to college.

Another student, JC, was referred to KIDS by his juvenile defense attorney. He was identified as a student with a specific learning disability, but his emotional and behavioral problems were ignored by the school, despite his hospitalizations for suicidal tendencies and depression and his need for counseling and medication to help manage his depression. He was doing poorly in school both behaviorally and academically. A KIDS attorney represented JC through his parents and was able to have him identified as a student with both a learning disability and emotional disability. He was placed in an alternative school, where he is passing and receiving services for his emotional issues.

J's mom called our office when her son was facing expulsion from school. The school wanted to expel him after they found his behavior was not related to his disability. A KIDS attorney appealed the school's decision. The case was settled. The school agreed not to expel him. A second case was opened to address appropriate programming under IDEA. His IEP was modified to include direct reading instruction and to provide him with a vocational program he and his parents requested.

Tribal Juvenile Justice

By J. Peter Sabonis, Esq.



It is commonly observed that there are two justice systems in America: one for the rich and another one for everybody else.

Usually, the observation means that the rich are able to afford skilled lawyers, who are able to use their talents to help their clients avoid jail or hard time. But lawyers alone do not explain the different systems. Throughout the country, our courts and jails are filled with more poor minorities than higher-class whites. Some would have us think this is simply because minorities break the law more often. But this is simply not true.

Take drug use for instance. A study by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services revealed that in 1998, there were almost five times as many white users of illegal drugs as there were black users. Yet, a black person was twice as likely to get arrested for drug use than a white.

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Peter Sabonis joins Pine Tree's KIDS Project



In September of this year, Pine Tree Legal welcomed attorney Peter Sabonis to its Bangor Office to work as the new KIDS Project Attorney.

KIDS Legal Aid of Maine is a statewide project at Pine Tree Legal Assistance Inc. Currently, there are three staff attorneys and one intake worker. KIDS has offices in Bangor and Portland. Because it is part of Pine Tree Legal Assistance, advocates from a local Pine Tree office can help you under the KIDS project. You can contact them directly at:

Portland Office:

KIDS Legal Aid of Maine
88 Federal Street
P.O. Box 547
Portland ME 04112
Phone: 774-8246
Fax: 828-2300
Attn: KIDS Legal Aid
TTY (207) 828-2308

Bangor Office:

KIDS Legal Aid of Maine
61 Main Street, Room 41
Bangor ME 04401
Phone: 942-8241 x217
Fax: 942-8323
Attn: KIDS Legal Aid
TTY (207) 942-1060

Or call toll free: (886) 624-7787

or you can call any Pine Tree Office.

The KIDS Project provides direct representation to individuals, consultations to community providers and group trainings on legal issues affecting low-income children and youth in Maine, such as education, housing, public benefits, and family law matters.

Peter grew up in Maryland, in the Washington DC suburbs. He graduated from the University of Maryland and then attended Northeastern University where he earned his law degree in 1982. After graduation, Peter worked for two years as a Legislative Staff Attorney for the Massachusetts State Legislature. In 1985, he began his career as a legal aid attorney. He has worked for the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, Advocates for Children and Youth and, since 1990, for the Homeless Persons Representation Project in Baltimore, MD. In 1995, Peter was appointed Executive Director for that organization. Peter has spent 20 years in Legal Services working on issues involving kids, domestic abuse, public assistance and homelessness.

As a KIDS Project attorney, Peter is now responsible for KIDS Legal Aid in Eastern Maine. To date, this has involved working with homeless youth at Shaw House in Bangor, and dealing with a variety of educational issues, from expulsion to special education, public assistance, housing and delinquency, which includes youth on Indian Island.

Peter is married to attorney Leslie Dickinson, who most recently worked for the Maryland Disability Law Center focusing on housing issues. At the moment, she spends much of her time taking care of the couple's four and a half year old son, Jacob. As of yet, Jacob has no interest in legal aid issues (except for due process).





("Paul" continued from front page)

substantial knowledge of Indian Country and Indian Law, ending up as Executive Director of Anishinabe Legal Services serving three Ojibwe Reservations in northern Minnesota. He now works in the Machias office, along with secretary/receptionist Debi Beal, and he spends 40% of his time working on Indian legal issues, mostly for members of the Passamaquoddy Tribe.

Paul was born in Massachusetts. He first came to Maine to attend Bowdoin College and then went west to Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco where he received his law degree.

Paul first joined Pine Tree in 1975 as a VISTA volunteer, shortly after graduating from law school. He became involved in prisoners rights and successfully litigated a major lawsuit on behalf of inmates at Maine State Prison. In 1983, Paul started to work with migrant workers, including many Native people from Maine and the Maritimes. He developed a keen interest in representing Indian clients and left Pine Tree in 1990 to work at Anishinabe Legal Services.

In addition to Legal Services, Paul has worked as a Tribal Public Defender and taught courses on Indian Law at the Leech Lake Tribal College in Minnesota. He has also served as a trainer for the National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA) on Indian Law issues. Paul has litigated a number of cases challenging state interference with tribal sovereignty.

Paul is married to Rae Rowell, a high school science teacher on the Red Lake Reservation. She is currently looking for work in Maine. They have two daughters, Arielle and Rachel, who are now in college.

Pine Tree Case Summaries

We are currently handling three cases on behalf of Native Americans alleging discrimination. Two of our clients are members of the Micmac Nation and one is a member of the Penobscot Indian Nation. Two of the cases are pending before the Maine Human Rights Commission. In one case, our client was terminated from her employment at a fast food restaurant. She alleges that she was fired because she is a Native American. In another case, our client is alleging public accommodation discrimination against another fast food restaurant for two separate incidents: one for refusing to serve him, and a second for serving another person ahead of him when he was clearly next in line. The third case alleges discrimination by the State Department of Human Services for discriminatory comments disparaging Native people that were made by a DHS caseworker in the course of an investigation.

If you believe you have been discriminated against because you are Native American, whether in housing, employment, public service, education, credit, or in some other area, please do not hesitate to contact our office at **1-800-879-7463**. You have rights under both state and federal laws that protect you from being discriminated








against, and you may be entitled to money damages and other relief for such discrimination!

Pine Tree also handled a housing case where the client, who was receiving a housing subsidy payment from Rural Housing Development Corporation (RHDC), was served an eviction notice that did not comply with RHDC regulations. Pine Tree made a Motion to Dismiss on procedural grounds and it was granted. The client, who has always been a good tenant and was current on rent, is still there. The rural housing development corporation has specific regulations, which must be followed by landlords accepting this federal money



Pine Tree Legal Assistance is a non-profit organization that gives free legal help to poor people with civil (non-criminal) legal problems.

Due to federal budget cuts, Pine Tree has lost some staff. As a result, Pine Tree has had to limit the types of cases that it handles. We have given high priorities to the following kinds of case:

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Eviction from public housing |  Domestic violence |
|  Home foreclosures |  Tax Problems |
|  Housing Discrimination |  Problems with MaineCare |
|  Loss, reduction or denial of government benefits (food stamps, TANF, Social Security, etc.) | |

If you are low-income and need legal help in one of these areas, call the nearest Pine Tree office. If you are a farmworker with employment problems, call the Farmworker Unit at **1-800-879-7463**.

Pine Tree has a Native American Unit in Bangor. The number is **1-800-879-7463**. Call the unit if you are a low-income Native American with civil legal problems.



2005 KIDS Law Conference

June 3, 2005

Augusta Civic Center

This year's conference will focus on **Youth Violence: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Prevention and Intervention**. The topic will be addressed in four areas--education, medical, juvenile justice, relationships--with breakout sessions within each. Examples of break-out sessions being planned are:

Education. "Bullying: Students' Rights and Schools' Obligations."

Medical. "DHHS: Navigating the New System"

Juvenile Justice. "Violence and Civil Rights: The Juvenile Justice Side."

Relationships. "Teen Dating Violence: Legal, Medical, and Social Responses."

Registration will open in mid-April.

For more information or if you would like to have a table to display your organization's information, please contact Lucy Rhodes at 774-8246 or lrhodes@ptla.org.



("Tribal Justice" continued from page 2)

In Maine, Native Americans are "over-represented" in prison and jails. This means that while Native Americans make up 0.6% of Maine's population overall, they make up 2.4% of the prison and jail population. A 2000 report by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice showed that American Indian youths represent 1% of the youth population in the United States, but are arrested at double and triple the rate of other youths.

Higher arrest and incarceration rates have a lot to do with where and when the offense took place. And often that has to do with income. Minorities are more frequently poorer than whites and more likely to live in urban areas where arrest rates are generally higher. But it's more than that. Arrest rates simply show who's watching whom. And history has shown that whites, regardless of their attempts to be unbiased or objective, will be more observant about the way minorities behave, and will craft their law enforcement systems (whether intentionally or not) along the same lines.

As a white person (and a lawyer) myself, this gets to why the very idea of a Tribal Juvenile Justice system holds so much promise. A criminal justice system that is run by a Tribe, from street law enforcement up to the courtroom, could be the one place in America where justice operates on an even playing field, a place where folks don't get arrested, jailed, and sentenced simply because they happened to be the wrong color at the wrong time.

But it's even more than that. Tribal courts have the freedom to be more creative in holding the person responsible to the community, and engaging in restorative justice efforts that can take criminal deviance and use it as an avenue back to community wholeness.

The Jurisdiction and Power of Juvenile Tribal Court

In the compromises worked out under the Indian Claims Settlement act, the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Tribes were given what is called "exclusive jurisdiction" in certain court matters. This means that the Tribal court is (usually) the *only place* where the case can be heard.

This exclusive jurisdiction was given to the Tribal court in adult and juvenile areas, depending on the crime. Felonies--generally Murder, Class A, B, and C offenses (such as Gross Sexual Assault, Burglary, Arson, Robbery, Kidnapping), are sent to the state courts. Misdemeanors, however, such as criminal trespass, marijuana possession, some assaults, and thefts, are reserved for the Tribal court if the offense occurred in Tribal territory.

Tribal court is required to follow state laws in defining what the crime is and its sentence. This means, for instance, that a legal definition of criminal trespass (unauthorized entry into a dwelling) is set by the state, as are the sentencing *limits* (no more than one year in jail and/or no more than \$2,000 in fines).

But within those sentencing limits, there is a lot of room for sentences that don't involve simply jail or fines. According to the state Juvenile code, a sentencing (or disposition) for a juvenile can involve any of the following:

- Participation in treatment services
- Community Service
- Supervised Work
- Restitution
- Commitment to the Department of Health and Human Services (foster care, group home, etc.)
- Long or short-term sentence to a Department of Corrections juvenile facility (Long Creek Detention Center or Mountain View Treatment Facility).
- Payment of a fine
- A "suspended" disposition and probation (with conditions).

A Tribal court can use these options alone, in combination, or can come up with other appropriate sentences. For instance, the Penobscot Nation Boys and Girls Club has created a program targeted to teens who have problems with the justice system. The Tribal court can, if it chooses, order a youth to participate in the program.

[Felonies that occur on Tribal land, or any criminal behavior off the land are handled by the state Juvenile Justice system. (See the companion article on the State Juvenile Justice system for information.)]

In short, the Tribal Juvenile Court enforces the law set by the state and disposes of cases within the "canal" of authority "dug" by the state. Yet, according to state law, the proceedings in Tribal Court are considered "tribal law." This means that the Tribal Juvenile Court system can demonstrate and reflect the values, aspirations, and ideas of justice and accountability of the Tribe itself. Whether it does that or not is up to the community.

This means not only holding juveniles accountable to the community for their actions. It also involves holding the community accountable for effectively delivering the services ordered by the Tribal court. All of this involves a community awareness of the Tribal Juvenile Court system, its importance, and its need for resources and attention. The *Wabanaki Legal News* hopes to play a role in facilitating this process, with a regular column on Tribal Juvenile Justice. Look for it in coming issues



The State Juvenile Justice System

By J. Peter Sabonis, Esq.



There is one set of criminal laws for all persons in Maine. If a person under 18 years of age violates them, it is considered a juvenile crime and is handled under the Juvenile Court system. If a violator is 18 years

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of age or older, he or she will be charged and tried as an adult. At times, crimes are so serious that the state may ask that a juvenile be charged as an adult. (Transferring those types of cases to the adult court is called "bind over.")

The Juvenile Court system, unlike the adult criminal system, tries to focus more on rehabilitation than punishment. It does this by giving a lot of power to Juvenile Community Corrections Officers (JCCO), also known as "probation" or "juvenile intake" officers. A JCCO will be assigned to your child and will try to find out as much as he or she can about your child and your family. Developing a good relationship with the JCCO is important.

Arrest

If your child is arrested, the law requires that a police officer or a JCCO contact you without delay and tell you where your child is. The police officer must try to contact you *before* questioning your child about the alleged crime. If you or your child asks for an attorney, the questioning of your child must stop.

Your child has a right to an attorney at this and every stage of the process. If you cannot afford an attorney, the court can appoint one for you. But this appointment will happen only when your child goes to court, not at the police station. If you want an attorney for your child at the police station, you must get one yourself. (This attorney later may ask the court for an appointment to your child's case, as a way of getting paid. Discuss this with the attorney.)

Release or Jail

There are three things that can happen to your child after being arrested:

- **Unconditional Release**—this means that your child is allowed to leave, usually upon the promise that he or she will come to court on the date that has been scheduled.
- **Conditional Release**—this means that your child must remain in some specific place until the court date—like your home, a group home, emergency shelter, foster care placement or some other care arrangement.
- **Detention**—this means that your child will be placed in a juvenile jail or other detention facility.

If a child is placed in detention, this triggers a whole set of laws that deal specifically with detention. These laws involve things like whether your child can be detained in a building that also houses adults, and, if so, for how long. Also, within 24 to 48 hours of the detention, a court hearing must occur where the judge will decide whether continued detention is needed until the date of trial, or if your child can be released (either *conditionally* or *unconditionally*) until then. This is called a **Detention Hearing**.

- At this point in court, an attorney will be appointed for your child if you cannot afford one. Having an attorney at this hearing is extremely important.
- Because of the way some courts operate, a court appointed attorney for the Detention Hearing might do nothing more than represent your child at the Detention Hearing. Make sure you ask for a court appointed attorney for your child's *entire case* before you leave the Detention Hearing (especially if the Court orders your child to stay in detention).

Before Your Child Goes to Court

Children released *conditionally* or *unconditionally* (even after detention), must follow all the rules and conditions that were imposed when they were released, or else they risk getting arrested or detained again.

A lot can happen before your child's court appearance. The JCCO should schedule interviews with you and your child to gather social history and information about the offense. The JCCO has the authority to decide whether the case will go to court or whether it can be taken care of informally (for example, by making restitution to the victim, obtaining services for your child voluntarily, etc). Informal cases usually involve first-time offenders who admit they committed the crime.

~~If your child denies the offense, then these preliminary~~ interviews with the JCCO will still occur, but the JCCO *must send* the matter to court. The JCCO has no right to determine guilt or force anyone to admit to a crime. For information about the JCCO in your region, go to www.state.me.us/corrections/JuvServices.htm.

The Arraignment at Court

If your child's case goes to court, the first court appearance (not counting the Detention Hearing) involves what is commonly called "arraignment."

At this time, a number of things will happen.

- The court will decide whether the *conditional* or *unconditional release* that was granted your child at the time of the arrest or detention hearing will continue until the date of trial.
- The charge against your child will be read aloud.
- An attorney will be appointed to represent your child if you cannot afford one.
- Your child will enter a plea that either admits or denies the charge.

If your child denies the charge, a court date for trial—called "adjudication"—will be scheduled for you to return. If your child admits the charge, then he or she already has been "adjudicated," and will move on to the "disposition" process (see below).

Parents are required by law to attend all court proceedings concerning the juvenile. If there are

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circumstances that prevent you from attending, bring this to the attention of the Juvenile Court judge as soon as possible.

Adjudication

The court date for an "adjudication" hearing is when the trial of the case will be held. At that time, the state tries to prove the case against your child; and your child will get the opportunity to cross-examine the state's witnesses, and introduce his or her own evidence. There is no jury, just a judge. If the judge finds your child guilty, an Order of Adjudication will be issued. Once the court issues this order of Adjudication, it must move on to what is called a "Dispositional" Hearing.

Very few juvenile cases in Maine actually involve trials. Most cases are resolved by a plea agreement, where your child usually admits to the charge (or a lesser charge) in exchange for a good disposition. This is not necessarily bad. Juvenile prosecutors often make good offers that should be accepted.

But before a plea agreement is accepted, find out whether the criminal record of the case will be available to the public or not. Many people—even lawyers—think that all juvenile adjudications are sealed from public view or are automatically expunged (erased) at age 18. This is not true. Adjudications involving Felony type offenses (Murder, or Class A, B, or C crimes) are *public proceedings*. Adjudications of some Misdemeanor type offenses (Class D or E crimes) *may also be public* if felony or repeat offenses also are involved. Any public proceeding is a public record. And public records can be obtained by private employers, landlords, banks and others through various low-cost, internet-based investigation companies. A good attorney for your child should know whether the matter will be a public record, and how it will affect your child's employment, credit, or the ability to apply for financial aid or military service. Consider these things before accepting a plea offer.

Disposition Hearing

The sentencing stage of your child's case is called the Disposition. Disposition can occur immediately after adjudication, or it can be delayed for up to 2 weeks (or even longer if there is good cause). Usually, a report will be prepared by the JCCO, and the state will have some recommendation. Disposition can involve:

- Participation in treatment services
- Community Service
- Supervised Work
- Restitution
- Commitment to the Department of Health and Human Services (foster care, group home, etc.)
- Long or short-term sentence to a Department of Corrections juvenile facility (Long Creek Detention Center or Mountain View Treatment Facility).
- Payment of a fine (rare)
- A "suspended" disposition and probation (with

conditions).

When you cannot reach an agreement on Disposition, a Disposition Hearing will be held. At this point, each side can introduce evidence, reports, and witnesses in order to persuade the court to adopt a particular disposition. Practically anything relating to your child is important at this stage—learning, physical, mental, and addiction problems. Bring these things to your attorney's (or the Judge's) attention. The court also can have your child examined by a Doctor or Psychologist at this point, though it might ask you (or MaineCare) to pay for it.

After the Judge hears all the evidence, or hears the agreement reached, he or she decides what will happen to your child. The Judge makes the decision based on what is best for your child AND the public.

Appeal

Appeals can be made either after the court issues an Adjudication or a Disposition order, but must be filed with the Superior Court within 5 days of the entry of the order.

You can see the Maine Juvenile Code yourself at the New England Juvenile Defender Center's website: www.nejdc.org/maine.

Teen Parenting Information

By Sara Meerse, Esq.

Being a parent can be overwhelming. Being a teenage parent can be even harder. Keep in mind that if you live on a reservation, you can get direction to all tribal programs by contacting the Tribal Offices. You should also be aware that the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) does NOT apply to every case involving custody of Indian children. The ICWA excludes custody disputes between parents of Indian children in divorce cases. It is not entirely clear whether the ICWA applies to custody disputes between parents who were never married, but to the extent those cases are like divorce cases, the ICWA probably does not apply. However, the ICWA does apply to other types of cases, such as termination of parental rights, even when the case is between the parents.

Here are some more things you should know.

1. You are not automatically emancipated when you have a baby. Having a baby is not enough. If you want to be emancipated, you must go to court.

2. In Maine, both mom and dad have equal rights to their baby. If you and your child's other parent have decided to get a divorce or are not married and you do not agree on who the baby should live with, or when, or where or how long visits should last, it can be stressful for each of you and your baby. You want to do what is in your child's best interests. You want to get along and work together. Sometimes, that is not possible. Whether you are getting along or not, if you want to have things spelled out, like where your child should live, when visits

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should happen, who gets to make decisions, or what the amount of child support should be, you need to go to Court and get an Order. If you are not married, you must file what is called a "parental rights and responsibilities" action. If you are married, you file for divorce. If you are not 18, you can bring a family law court case on your own. You do not have to have an adult bring it on your behalf. This is because you are bringing the court case for the benefit of your child.

3. There is no such thing as "custody" in Maine. It is called "Parental Rights and Responsibilities". A Parental Rights and Responsibilities Order states where the primary residence will be, what visitation will look like and what the parental rights and responsibilities and child support will be. Primary residence means who the child lives with. "Parental Rights and Responsibilities" means who makes decisions about the child. There are three types of rights and responsibilities: "shared," "allocated" and "sole." "Shared" means just that - both parents make decisions by talking with one another. "Allocated" means one parent makes the decisions but must tell the other parent about it. "Sole" means one parent makes the decision and doesn't have to tell the other parent. The Order will also give parents rights to see medical records and educational records for their child. Child support will be ordered based on State guidelines.

4. There are some housing programs available for teen parents throughout the State. Here are some:

Stepping Stones 2 www.stepstones4youth.org/
Houlton, ME; Phone: 532-6689

This is a residential facility for homeless or at-risk pregnant and parenting young women, ages 15 to 25, and their children. The maximum stay is 18 months. You must be eligible for MaineCare.

Stepping Stones 3 www.stepstones4youth.org/
Houlton, ME; Phone: 532-6689

This is a transitional living program for runaway and homeless young women between the ages of 16 and 21 who are pregnant or parenting. Apartment rentals are available based on a percent of resident's income. The program provides individual case management services, access to skilled staff and services. The maximum stay is 18 months.

St. Andre Home, Inc. www.saintandrehome.com/
Central office in Biddeford, ME; Phone: 282-3351

This organization provides group housing in Biddeford, Bangor and Lewiston. Call the central office for more information.

You can also apply for **subsidized housing**, such as Section 8 or public housing. Contact your Tribal housing authority or a CAP agency.

You may also need **income support and health insurance**. Prenatal and postnatal care are very important for your health as well as for your baby's. With MaineCare, you should have to pay nothing, or very little. You can apply for MaineCare through Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). You may be able to receive medical care through your Tribal health center or local regional health center.

You also must make sure you are meeting your child's nutritional needs as well as your own. To get help with nutrition, contact your Tribal social services or you can call WIC (Women, Infants, Children's Nutrition) www.maine.gov/dhhs/wic/ at 1-800-437-9300. You can also apply for Food Stamps through your Tribal Social Services or through DHHS.

For income assistance, you can apply to your Tribal social services. You can also apply for **General Assistance** (www.ptla.org/ga.htm) from your town or for **TANF** (www.mejp.org/page105mejp.html) through DHHS- 1-800-482-7520.

General Assistance is a support program for low-income people. You can apply for GA from your Tribe or from the city or town you live in. GA helps with rent, utilities, food vouchers, medical expenses, clothing, and personal and household items (like shampoo, toothpaste, laundry supplies, toilet paper, light bulbs.) To apply for aid from a city or town, you must be financially eligible. This means you must not have more money in a month than the guidelines will let you have. If you are applying for a second time, you have to show the town that you spent your money on "basic needs." You should bring receipts

to prove this. "Basic needs" are things like rent, food, medication, transportation, electricity, and heat. It does not include such items as pet food, cigarettes or cable. Even though you are not 18, you can apply for General Assistance if you are pregnant or have a child of your own. You must apply in writing and get a written decision from the town. If the town will not let you apply, contact us. The town cannot threaten to have your baby taken away from you just because you are applying for GA.

There are special rules that apply to you because of your age. If you are pregnant or have a child of your own and are not married, you are eligible for GA if:

- You are living with your parents or adult relative or
- You are living in a foster home or other adult-supervised home or
- Both your parents have died or you don't know where either one is or
- Neither parent will let you live with them or
- DHHS has stated that it would be physically or emotionally dangerous to you or your baby to live with either parent or
- You have not lived with either parent for at least one year before your baby was born or
- You have other "good cause."

(Continued on next page)



("Teen Parenting" continued from page 7)

If you are under 25 years old, the town can contact your parents or your husband or wife (if you are married) and ask them to pay back any GA you get. They should only do this if your parents or spouse have the money to pay. The town cannot refuse to let you apply. You can still apply and still get GA. If they do not let you, contact us.

TANF is welfare for families with children under 18. It is a monthly benefit to help you make ends meet. You must be low-income in order to get TANF. If you live with your parent or legal guardian, that adult may receive TANF for you. You can apply for TANF on your own only if you are in the third trimester of pregnancy or you have a child of your own. There are special rules that apply to you because of your age.

You are eligible for TANF if:

- You are living with your parents or adult relative or
- You are living in a foster home or other adult-supervised home or
- Both your parents have died or you don't know where either one is or
- Neither parent will let you live with them or
- DHHS has stated that it would be physically or emotionally dangerous to you or your baby to live with either parent or
- You have not lived with either parent for at least one year before your baby was born or
- You have other "good cause."

Maine also has a "welfare to work" program called **ASPIRE**. To get ASPIRE, you must sign a contract that states what services DHHS will give you (child care, transportation, clothing for uniforms) and what work and/or schooling you will do. If you are under 20 years old and have not finished high school, you will have to be in ASPIRE and take courses to get your high school diploma. If you do not follow the contract, you can be "sanctioned." This means your TANF check will be reduced. If you need help getting childcare or transportation for school, ASPIRE should help you. If they do not, contact us.

5. If you need help learning about your child's development or need help learning parenting skills, you can contact agencies such as an Early Headstart Program, or call Teen & Young Adult Health Program at 1-800-698-3624; Mainely Parents (<http://www.mainelyparents.org/>) at 1-800-249-5506; or Parents as Teachers (www.mpf.org/SPIN/FAQ%20Sheets/pat.html) at 1-800-870-7746. Your doctor or nurse may also refer you to a public health nurse. Ask your doctor about it.



Claim your Earned Income Credit

If you worked in 2004, you may be eligible for the Earned Income Credit. If so, you'll owe less in taxes, and you could get cash back. Even if you don't owe income tax, you can get the EIC.



- * If you raised one child in your home in 2004 and your family earned less than \$30,338 (or \$31,338 for married workers), you can get up to \$2,604.
- * If you raised more than one child in your home in 2003 and your family earned less than \$34,458 (or \$35,458 for married workers), you can get up to \$4,300.
- * If you weren't raising a child, were between the ages of 25 and 64 on December 31, 2004, and earned less than \$11,490 in 2004, you can get up to \$390.
- * If you were raising a "qualifying child" in 2004, you must file federal tax return Forms 1040 or 1040A and must fill out and attach Schedule EIC. **You cannot get the EIC if you fill out Form 1040EZ or do not attach Schedule EIC.** Married workers must file a joint return.
- * If you weren't raising children in 2004, file the return you would normally file (including the 1040EZ). Be sure to write "EIC" or the dollar amount of your credit on the Earned Income Credit line of your tax form. Do not file Schedule EIC.
- * You don't have to calculate your own EIC. If you choose, the IRS will do it for you.
- * A correct name and social security number must be provided for every person listed on the tax return and Schedule EIC. If this information is incorrect or missing, the IRS will delay your refund.



Increase Your Take-Home Pay With the EIC Advance Payment Option

Most workers get their EIC in one large check from the IRS after they file a tax return. You have another choice. Your employer can add part of your EIC to every paycheck. You get the rest of your credit after you file your return.

For many workers, getting part of their EIC in each paycheck can make a difference in paying the rent, buying groceries, and meeting other day-to-day needs. If you earn between \$490 and \$1,300 a month, for example, you can get about \$50 to \$60 extra in each bi-weekly paycheck. Advance EIC payments are not counted as additional income in determining eligibility for public benefits such as cash assistance, housing assistance, food stamps and Medicaid.

In 2005, you can qualify for an Advance EIC payment if

(Continued on next page)



("EIC" continued from page 8)

you have at least one qualifying child and you expect your 2004 income to be less than \$31,030 (\$33,030 if you are married).

If you are not raising a child in your home, you are not eligible for advance payments. You are not eligible if you get paid day to day; if you have no Social Security and Medicare taxes withheld from your pay; or if you are a self-employed worker who cannot advance your EIC to yourself.

In order to get the advance payment, just fill out a **W-5 form** called the "Earned Income Credit Advance Payment Certificate" and give part to your employer. You should be able to get the form from your employer. You can also get the form by calling **1-800-TAX-FORM** or you can download the form from the IRS website at www.irs.gov/formspubs. You can file a W-5 any time during the year, but you must file a new W-5 at the beginning of every year in order to continue getting advance payments.

Do **not** ask for advance payment if you hold more than one job; if you expect to get married during the year and both of you work; if you expect your income to increase a lot during the year; or if you have a spouse who also works, unless you both take advance payments. If something happens during the year that would change the amount of the EIC you should be getting, such as getting married or a big raise, you can ask your employer to stop putting advance payments in your paycheck. Just fill out another W-5 form and give it to your employer.

If you get advance payments during the year, you must file a tax return at the end of the year **and** include the total amount you received as an advance payment. You must also file Schedule EIC and attach it to your tax return.

Get FREE Help Filing your Taxes!

Pine Tree Legal Assistance is a partner in the I-CAN Earned Income Credit project. If you are eligible for the Earned Income Credit (EIC), you can use I-CAN to prepare your tax returns on-line, and if you choose, to file them electronically. Click on our website at www.ptla.org/cliented/taxpayer/icanindex.htm and follow the easy instructions. For other tips on filing, click on our website at www.ptla.org/cliented/taxindex.htm.



Help with Returns: You can get free tax preparation from Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs in most communities. Volunteers help prepare basic tax returns if you have a low or limited income. To find a VITA site near you, click on Pine Tree's website at www.ptla.org/vita.htm or call the IRS at **1-800-829-1040**. You can also call AARP at **1-877-227-7844** to see if they are near a local Tax Aide site.

Personal Computer: You can get free tax information on IRS.gov. One feature for IRS.gov is 1040 Central, which has all the help, forms and information you need to file

your returns. You may also check on the status of your refund using the Where's My Refund? tool.

Taxpayer Assistance Centers: If you need face-to-face help solving individual or business tax problems, you can get help every business day in every IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center. Although appointments are not necessary, you may call ahead to make an appointment at a convenient time or to hear a recorded message with office hours and locations. Local phone numbers for Taxpayer Assistance Centers are available in telephone directories and are posted at IRS.gov. The IRS provides non-English-speaking taxpayers equal access to all services through a phone interpreter.

Publication 910: To find out what free tax services are available, you should get IRS Publication 910, Guide to Free Tax Services.

Remember: paying for tax preparation takes money away from YOUR refund.

Free Legal Help with Tax Problems

Pine Tree Legal Assistance can help low-income taxpayers who are having tax problems with the IRS, including audits. In addition, clinics are being planned to help low-income Native American taxpayers prepare their taxes for the first time and to help with any questions about the Earned Income Credit. For more information, call Paul Harrison at **1-800-879-7463**.

Pleasant Point Tribal Victim Outreach Advocate Program

If you have ever been a victim of crime or if someone close to you has been victimized by crime the experience can be devastating. The **Tribal Victim Outreach Advocate Program** is a new program at Pleasant Point. It started in January 2004. The purpose of this program is to meet the needs of individuals who are crime victims to address their victimization. This is a 24 hour-7 days a week service.

The TVOA provides direct services and working in collaboration with all the different departments available at Pleasant Point and networking with related state agencies to address crime victimization, issues, concerns, and their needs.

- On Scene Response
- Crisis Intervention and Prevention
- Victim Liaison: Victim's Rights, Law Enforcement, and Court Agencies
- Assist Victim's Through the Criminal Justice System: *court proceedings; notification of court hearings; support during the preparation of testimony of trial; support within the court system on behalf of victims of crime; assistance in return of property and restitution; notification of offender's release.*
- Assistance with Victim Impact Statements
- Court Accompaniment



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Paralegal: Danny Mills
Editor: Cushing Pagon Samp



We Want To Hear From You!

If you have comments, articles or ideas on how this Newsletter can be helpful to you, please let us know.

Please send articles or letters to:
 Wabanaki Legal News, Pine Tree Legal Assistance,
 Coe Building, 61 Main Street, Room 41, Bangor, ME
 04401. Or you can send e-mail to csamp@ptla.org.



INDEX of COMMUNITY RESOURCES



- Information and Assistance with Protection From Harassment
- Information and Assistance with Victim Compensation
- Referrals
- Transportation
- Emergency Shelter, Emergency food
- Emergency repairs or replacement of doors, locks, and windows
- Child Care
- Care packages
- Emotional Support
- Safety Planning

The TVOA also provide intervention, prevention, awareness of Crime Victim's Rights and awareness on crime specific topics, through presentations, Sipayik News letter, and support groups.

The goals of the TVOA are to help victims to develop independence, strengthening coping skills, become more resistant to crisis and healing themselves by assisting, supporting, and informing victims and their through their crisis and throughout the criminal justice process.

Contact Person:

Viola Francis, Tribal Victim Outreach
 Advocate
 P. O. Box 343
 Perry, Maine 04667
 853-2600 ext. 260 Emergency: 853-2551
 ask for the TVOA

The articles in this paper are meant to give information, **NOT to give legal advice.** No one should interpret any law without the help of an attorney who has been told all the facts.



CRISIS

(available 24 hours a day)



- ◆ Child Abuse/Neglect 1-800-452-1999
- ◆ Adult Abuse/Neglect 1-800-624-8404
- ◆ Domestic Violence:
 - Houlton Band of Maliseets 532-6401
 - Pleasant Point 853-2613
 - Indian Township 1-877-796-2020
 - Penobscot County 1-800-863-9909
 - Aroostook County 1-800-439-2323
 - Washington County 1-888-604-8692
- ◆ Mental Crisis Hotline: 1-888-568-1112
- ◆ Poison Control Center: 1-800-442-6305
- ◆ Rape Crisis:
 - Penobscot County 1-800-310-0000
 - Aroostook County 1-800-550-3304
 - Washington County 1-800-228-2470
- ◆ Youth Crisis Stabilization: 1-800-499-9130



HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE

The Federal Fuel Assistance Program administered by the Maine State Housing Authority gives fuel assistance money to states to distribute to residents who need help with fuel bills. To find out if you qualify, call your nearest Community Action Agency or the Maine State Housing Authority (1-800-452-4668). The TTY number is 1-800-452-4603. Or go to www.mainehousing.org/homerepair.html and click on LIHEAP.

The following Tribal Agencies offer emergency fuel assistance (LIHEAP) and related services:

- Aroostook Band of Micmacs Social Services** 764-1972
E-mail: dtaylor@micmac.org
- Penobscot Indian Nation Department of Human Services** 827-7776
www.penobscotnation.org/DHS/index.htm
E-mail: epaul@penobscotnation.org
- Indian Township Tribal Government** 976-2301
E-mail: liheap@passamaquoddy.com
- Passamaquoddy Tribe** 853-2600
- Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians:** 532-7260 or
www.maliseets.com/social_services.htm
E-mail: Sueann@alnop.com 1-877 532-7280

The following Community Action Programs also offer (LIHEAP) in your area:

- Aroostook County** 768-3053 or
www.acap.me.org/Energy_and_Housing_Services/energy_and_housing_services.html 1-800-432-7881



Washington/Hancock Counties

www.whacap.org/

664-2424

Penquis/Bangor

www.penquiscap.org/penquis.nsf/webpages/Fuel+Assistance

973-3630

If you can't pay your heating bill, check to see if you can get onto a payment plan. Your electric utility offers special payment plans for low income customers during the winter.



LEGAL SERVICES (Other than Pine Tree):



Maine Lawyer Referral and Information Service:

For a \$20.00 fee, you can be referred to a lawyer in your area for a one half-hour consultation or review of your paperwork.

Telephone: 207-622-1460 or 1-800-860-1460

www.mainebar.org/lawyer_need.asp



Tel-Law:

Tel-Law has a number of different recorded messages to answer your basic questions about the law. It operates 24 hours a day. There is no fee other than the fact that it is a toll call outside the Augusta calling area.

Telephone: 207-622-1470

www.mainebar.org/public_tellaw.asp



Volunteer Lawyers Project:

If you meet the Pine Tree eligibility requirements, the Volunteer Lawyer's Project can give you legal advice or informational materials for free, or will refer you to a private lawyer who may handle your case without charge. Normal intake hours are Mon.-Thurs. 8:45-12:00 & 1:00-4:00 & Fri. 8:45-12:00.

Telephone: 774-4348 or 1-800-442-4293

www.vlp.org/



Legal Services for the Elderly:

If you are age 60 or over, Legal Services for the Elderly can give you free legal advice or limited representation.

Telephone: 1-800-750-5353 or 207-623-1797

www.mainele.org/



Penquis Law Project:

This group gives legal representation to low and moderate income residents of Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties in cases involving domestic relations, including divorce, protection from abuse, child support and visitation. Priority is given to people who are experiencing or have experienced domestic violence. Services are provided on a sliding fee scale. Pro-se clinics are offered for a fee of \$5 on an as-needed basis.

Telephone: 973-3671

www.penquiscap.org/penquis.nsf/webpages/Law+Project



Courthouse Assistance Projects:

If you meet the Pine Tree Legal Assistance income limits, a volunteer may be able to help you fill out court forms, serve forms, calculate child support, and answer questions. You may meet with a volunteer at the Bangor District Court once a month. To get dates, call Holly Jarvis at the Bangor District Court during normal business hours or go to the following website:

www.ptla.org/ptlasite/cliented/family/assist.htm

Telephone: 941-3040



University of Maine Student Legal Services:

If you are an undergraduate student at the University of Maine at Orono, you can get free or reduced cost civil legal services.

Telephone: 581-1789

www2.umaine.edu/StudentGovernment/sls.htm



Chief Advocate, Department of Corrections:

The Advocate refers civil cases of inmates of the State correctional system, including the Maine State Prison and Maine Correctional Center, to attorneys under contract with the Department of Corrections. Currently the contract is with the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic of the University of Maine School of Law in Portland.

This office also gives advocacy services for adult inmates and adjudicated juveniles and works to resolve complaints informally.

Telephone: 287-4393

E-mail: wes.andrenyak@maine.gov



Patient Advocate, Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services:

The Advocate refers civil cases of patients at state mental institutions or clients of the Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services to attorneys under contract with the Department. The Office also advocates generally for clients of BDS in all matters pertaining to rights and dignity.

www.me.gov/dhhs/bds/FactSheets/OfficeAdvocacy.html

Telephone: 287-4228



SOCIAL SECURITY (State-wide) 1-800-772-1213

s3abaca.ssa.gov/pro/foi/foi-home.html

Bangor Area

Presque Isle Area

990-4530; TTY: 941-8698

764-3771; TTY: 764-2925



DISCRIMINATION:

Housing Discrimination—HUD:

www.hud.gov/complaints/housediscrim.cfm

or call Pine Tree Legal Assistance Native American Unit

www.ptla.org/ptlasite/native/native.htm

Maine Human Rights Commission

www.state.me.us/mhrc/index.shtml

ME Civil Liberties Union

www.mclu.org/

1-800-827-5005

1-800-879-7463

624-6050

774-5444



DISABILITIES:

Disability Rights Center

www.drcme.org/

1-800-452-1948



CONSUMER RESOURCES:

✕ Maine Attorney General's Consumer Law Guide:

This Guide offers valuable and comprehensive information on many consumer topics. It can be viewed and downloaded online.

www.maine.gov/ag/?r=clg

✕ Consumer Mediation Service:

The Attorney General's Office gives this service free of charge. If you want to file a consumer complaint against a business call between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. weekdays. Or write to: Attorney General's Consumer Information and Mediation Service, 6 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333.

Telephone: 626-8849

www.maine.gov/ag/index.php?r=protection&s=complaints&t=

✕ Lemon Law Arbitration:

If you buy a car that has serious defects, the Attorney General's Lemon Law Arbitration Program can help you.

Telephone: 626-8848

www.maine.gov/ag/index.php?r=protection&s=lemon_law&t=

✕ Utility Complaints:

The Consumer Assistance Division of the Maine Public Utilities Commission can help you settle problems with any utility in the State.

Telephone: 1-800-452-4699

www.state.me.us/mpuc/CAD/cad.htm

✕ Low Income Telephone Service Help:

If you qualify for Food Stamps, MaineCare, TANF, SSI or Fuel Assistance, call your local telephone company to see if you qualify for a reduction on your monthly telephone bill.

✕ Employment/Labor Information:

Career Centers: (www.maineecareercenter.com/)

Bangor

Calais

Houlton

Machias

Presque Isle

561-4050

454-7551

532-5300

255-1900

760-6300



State Bureau of Labor Standards
(wage or child labor complaints)
www.state.me.us/labor/bls/wagehour.htm

624-6400

US Dept. of Labor (Wage and Hour Division)
www.dol.gov/esa/whd/ toll-free number: 1-866-4USWAGE

✧ Housing:

Maine State Housing Authority 1-800-452-4668
www.mainehousing.org/

✧ Insurance:

Bureau of Insurance 624-8475
www.state.me.us/pfr/ins/ins_index.htm or 1-800-300-5000

✧ Mobile Homes:

Manufactured Housing Board 624-8678
www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/mhs/mhssaa.cfm
Manufactured Housing Association 623-2204
(mediation for mobile home residents)
Maine State Housing Authority 1-800-452-4668
(if renting a mobile home) TTY 1-800-452-4603
www.mainehousing.org/rentalhousing.html

✧ COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS (CAPS):

These agencies give information, outreach, job training, educational programs, day care, housing information and referral, fuel/energy assistance, insulation and furnace repair, surplus food, transportation and Emergency Crisis Intervention Program benefits. Not all services are given by all agencies.

Aroostook County Action Program

771 Main St. 91 Military St.
Presque Isle, ME 04769 Houlton, ME 04730
1-800-432-7881 532-5311
or 764-3721
www.acap-me.org/

Penquis Community Action Program

262 Harlow Street,
Bangor, ME 04402-1162
973-3500
www.penquiscap.org/



Washington-Hancock Community Agency

2 Maple Street
PO Box 64
Milbridge, ME 04643
546-7544 or 664-2424
www.whacap.org/

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT and AGENCIES

- ✧ Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians 764-1972 or
www.micmac-nsn.gov/ 1-800-355-1435
- ✧ Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians 532-4273
(In State) 1-800-564-8524
(Out of State) 1-800-545-8524 827-7776
- ✧ Penobscot Indian Nation
www.penobscotnation.org/
- ✧ Passamaquoddy Tribe 796-2301
Indian Township www.passamaquoddy.com/ 853-2600
Pleasant Point www.wabanaki.com/



PENOBSCOT TRIBAL COURT SYSTEM

Director of Tribal Court (George Tomer) 817-7342
Clerk of Courts (Sheila Sapiel) 817-7329
Tribal Prosecutor (C. Peter Bos) 945-5502
Probation Officer (George Tomer) 817-7342
Juvenile Intake Officer (George Tomer) 817-7342
Regular Sessions: Usually first Wednesday of the month.
Special Sessions as needed.



PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBAL COURT SYSTEM

www.wabanaki.com/tribal_court.htm
✧ Indian Township Division: 796-5600
Clerk of Courts (Jennifer Sockabasin)

Probation Officer (Darlene Donahue) 796-5600
W-F 7:30-4:00

✧ Pleasant Point Division:

Clerk of Courts (Dorothy A. Barnes) 853-2600, ext 252
Probation Officer (Edward J. Nicholas) 853-2600, ext 249
Regular Sessions: One Friday per month at each division. Special Sessions as needed.



OTHER TRIBAL AGENCIES

✧ Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission 622-4815
✧ Pleasant Point Tribal Victim Outreach Advocate Program: 853-2600 ext. 260
Viola Francis Emergency: 853-2551
Tribal Victim Outreach Advocate ask for the TVOA
P. O. Box 343, Perry Maine 04667



HEALTH SERVICES

✧ Ruth Attean Davis Health Center 827-6101
(Penobscot Nation)
www.penobscotnation.org/IHS/index.html
✧ Maliseet Health Department 532-2240
www.maliseets.com/health%20department.htm
✧ Micmac Health Department 1-800-750-1972
www.micmac-nsn.gov/html/micmac_health.html or 764-7219
✧ Pleasant Point Health Center 853-0644 ext 290
Emergency Services 853-2551
www.wabanaki.com/health.htm or 853-4811
✧ Indian Township Health Center 796-2321



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Native American Services:

✧ Peaceful Relations (Pleasant Point): 853-2600 (office number)
www.wabanaki.com/Peaceful_Relations/default.htm
Hotline: (toll-free) 853-2613
Emergency 24 Hour Help Line: 853-2551
e-mail: nancy@wabanaki.com
✧ Houlton Band of Maliseets: 532-6401
During Office Hours (M-F 8-4): 694-1353
After hours: 796-2321
✧ Indian Township Health Center (Indian Township): (toll-free) 1-877-796-2020
✧ Aroostook Band of Micmacs: 764-1972
(Ask for Sarah Dewitt)
✧ Penobscot Indian Nation: 817-7491
(Ask for Clarence Cheveree)

Other Domestic Violence Services:

Penobscot County 947-0496
Spruce Run www.sprucerun.net/ 1-800-863-9909
Washington County
The Next Step www.nextstepdvproject.org/ 1-888-604-8692
Aroostook County
Battered Women's Project 1-800-439-2323



MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Wabanaki Mental Health Association, NPC 990-0605
Penobscot Health Department 827-6101
www.penobscotnation.org/IHS/index.html
Micmac Health Department 764-7219 or (toll-free) 1-800-750-1972
www.micmac-nsn.gov/html/behavioral_health.html
Wolipomawsu Program 853-0644 or (emergency) 853-4811
(Pleasant Point)



HELPFUL NATIVE AMERICAN WEB SITES

Directory of Indian Legal Services Programs in the US:
www.judicare.org/nails.html
Pine Tree Legal Assistance: www.ptla.org
Index of Native American Resources on the Internet:
www.hanksville.org/NAresources/
www.johnco.com/native/
Native Links:
Aboriginal Links: www.bloorstreet.com/300block/aborcan.htm