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Tribal Law Journal Staff

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Tribal Law Journal
University of New Mexico School of Law
Tribal Court Handbook

TLJ, Spring 2008 (Indian Law Section of the State Bar of NM 1991)

TAOS PUEBLO TRIBAL COURT

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NAME OF TRIBE: TAOS PUEBLO

Part One: TRIBAL GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL INFORMATION

The purpose of this Section is to provide certain basic information about your Tribal Court and judicial system. Anyone practicing in Tribal Court will need to know where the Court is located, how it is organized, and who to contact for more information.

1. Contact Persons and Location of Tribal Court:

Name of Tribal Court	Taos Pueblo Tribal Court		
Contact Person Name & Title	Leona Romero, Court Administrator		
Address	PO Box 1846, Taos, NM 87571		
Phone	(505) 751-0488	Fax	(505) 751-3552
E-mail	tptribalcourts@taospueblo.com		

2. Name and address of the Chief Judge of the Tribal Court:

Name			
Title	Judge Pro Tempore		
Address	PO Box 1846, Taos, NM 87571		
Phone	(505) 751-0488	Fax	(505) 751-3552
E-mail	none		

3. Driving directions to Tribal Court (attach a map if needed):

Court is located at 1057 Veterans Highway, located on the right hand side of the road, behind the CMS Administration Building

4. What is the official name of your tribe or federally recognized organization?

Taos Pueblo

5. On what is your tribal government based? (Please check one and briefly describe in box)

- An IRA or OIWA constitution
- A non-IRA constitution
- A non-constitutional organizational document (*e.g. tribal legislation*)
- A traditional system (*please describe*)
- Other (*please describe*)

Theocratic. Taos Pueblo has a traditional system which consists of a Governor, Lt. Governor, Tribal Secretary as well a WarChief, Lt. Warchief and Warchief Secretary, both entities work hand in hand with each other to coordinate and run an efficient for of government.

6. Please indicate which organic documents are possessed by the Tribe, and from whom copies are available:

Tribal Document	Available?	Obtain Copy From:
1. Tribal Constitution	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	
2. Bill of Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	
3. Executive Order	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	Established Reservation
4. Land Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	Established Reservation
5.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	

7. Please indicate where your tribal jurisdiction is exercised:

- Within undisputed, clearly established reservation boundaries
- Generally within reservation boundaries, with a few outlying parcels of Indian country (*Please describe the nature of these parcels: e.g. gaming location; purchased land not used for gaming; land remaining from formerly larger reservation, etc.*)

Land remaining after Pueblo Lands Act

- Within Indian country (or dependent Indian community); there are no reservation boundaries
- Please describe disputes regarding the tribe's territorial jurisdiction, including boundaries; non-Indian owned fee land; dependent Indian community status; state or county roads; or any other:

8. Regular Court Staff:

Name	Title	Phone Number	e-mail address
Paula Vigil	Court Administrator	(505) 751-0488	

9. Tribal Court Organization:

Other branches of the Court (if any): None

Other Courts in Tribal Court system are checked below:

- Appellate Court (Tribal Council)
- Supreme Court
- Lower courts with different subject-matter jurisdiction
- Other: _____
- Other: _____
- Other: _____

10. Number of judges on the Tribal Court: (Please provide list of names, titles, and contact information for each judge)

Judge Positions	# of Full-time Positions	# of Part-time Positions	# of Pro-tem Positions
Trial Court Judges		1	1
Specialized Court Judges			
Appellate Court Judges			
Other:			

11. Tribal Prosecutor for the Court :

Name			
Title			
Address			
Phone		Fax	
E-mail			

12. Tribal Government staff person to be contacted for more information regarding Tribal Government:

NOTE: The Governor serves a one year term (fiscal year), so there is turnover in the Governor’s position each year.

Name	James Lujan, Sr.		
Title	Governor		
Address	P.O. Box 1846 Taos, NM 87571		
Phone	(505) 758-9593	Fax	(505) 758-4604
E-mail			

13. Tribal Justice System Staff: *(Please provide list of names, titles, and contact information for each position)*

Tribal Justice System Position	# of Full-time Positions	# of Part-time Positions	# of Pro-tem Positions
Court Administrators/Clerks	2		
Probation Officers			
Prosecutors			
Public Defenders			
Bailiffs			
Juvenile Officers			
Other: DV Advocate	1		
Other: TYP Coordinator			

14. Use of Attorneys: *(Please indicate the number of full and part time attorneys or law school graduates your tribal justice system currently utilizes – enter 0 for positions which are not held by attorneys or law school graduates)*

Tribal Justice System Position	# of Full-time Positions	# of Part-time Positions	# of Pro-tem Positions
Judges who are licensed attorneys			
Judges who are law school graduates, but not licensed in any state			
Prosecutors who are licensed attorneys		1	
Prosecutors who are law school graduates, but not licensed in any state			
Public defenders who are licensed attorneys			
Public defenders who are law school graduates but not licensed in any state			

15. Alternative Dispute Resolution and Diversion Programs:

- Does your tribe use Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the judicial system? Yes No
If yes, please indicate below which ADR methods you use:

- Traditional Methods Mediation Settlement Facilitation
 Arbitration Diversion Programs Other: Peace Keepers

A. Family Meetings

- Is there additional written material available which describes your tribe’s ADR program(s)?
 Yes No *If yes, who should be contacted to obtain a copy:*

Name			
Title			
Address			
Phone		Fax	
E-mail			

Part Two: TRIBAL BAR PRACTICE

(Please attach additional information for each question if available)

Issue		Comments
1. Are there special requirements to be permitted to practice in tribal court?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Licensed attorney in good standing with the State Bar
2. Are there requirements regarding knowledge of tribal culture or language:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
3. Are advocates who do not have law degrees or are not members of a state bar permitted to practice in tribal court? Please describe requirements.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
4. Do the same requirements apply for state-licensed attorneys?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	\$100 fee per year.
5. Does your tribe have a tribal bar examination? If yes, please provide details concerning requirements, how often the exam is administered and how to get more information about being admitted to the tribal bar.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	
6. Can an otherwise licensed attorney who is not a member of the tribal bar be admitted for a single case? If yes, how?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Upon application and acceptance by Judge and payment of fee.
7. Can/must an otherwise licensed attorney who is not a member of the tribal bar associate with a member of the tribal bar on a single case? If yes, how?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	N/A
8. Does the tribal bar have a Continuing Legal Education requirement? If yes, please provide details.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	N/A
9. What is the total number of members of the tribal bar?		N/A
10. Of the total number of members of the tribal bar, how many are licensed attorneys admitted to practice in a state?		N/A

16. Other requirements for a lawyer to practice in Tribal Court:

17. Others that are allowed in practice in Tribal Court:

Part Three: TRIBAL COURT RULES AND PROCEDURE

The purpose of this Section is to provide specific information regarding the rules and procedures necessary to practice in Tribal Court.

18. Tribal Court's working hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

19. Language(s) used in Tribal Court: English

20. Interpreters are available: yes no

Name			
Title			
Address			
Phone		Fax	
E-mail			

21. Tribal court filing fees:

\$100 Attorney fee, \$10 Petition for Custody, \$20 Restraining Order and Civil suits

22. Tribal Court scheduling or docket practices where specific days or weeks are reserved:

Arraignments: Monday and Tuesday
 Civil: Tuesday and Wednesday
 Show Cause: Tuesday
 Judicial Reviews Tuesday
 Children and Juvenile: Tuesday and Wednesday

23. Rules of conduct, or etiquette, or rules of ethics, either written or implied, which are required to practice in Tribal Court:

Professional Rules of Conduct.

24. The following written rules are available for Tribal Court (Check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Civil Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Others: Tribal Code available for \$100 fee.
<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Appellate Procedure	
<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Relations	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Dispute Resolution	

25. These rules can be obtained by contacting:

Contact Person Name & Title	Leona Romero, Court Administrator		
Address	PO Box 1846, Taos, NM 87571		
Phone	(505) 751-0488	Fax	(505) 751-3552
E-mail	none		

Part Four: THE JURISDICTION OF TRIBAL COURT

The purpose of this Section is to provide information regarding the law that applies to cases heard in Tribal Court.

32. Information regarding a written Tribal Code can be obtained from:

Copy of the Tribal Code can be obtained for a fee of \$100.

Contact Person Name & Title	Leona Romero, Court Administrator		
Address	PO Box 1846, Taos, NM 87571		
Phone	(505) 751-0488	Fax	(505) 751-3552
E-mail	none		

33. Does the tribe or the court have a definition of “non-member Indian” for jurisdictional or service purposes?

yes no If yes, please indicate what that definition is, and describe whether there are different definitions for different purposes (e.g., tribal services or criminal jurisdiction).

34. Does the tribe exercise jurisdiction over members off-reservation?

yes no If yes, please specify subject matter and circumstances (check all that apply):

- Indian Child Welfare Act
- Hunting, Fishing or Subsistence
- Other: Child in need of care
- Other: Domestic Relations issues and Real Property issues

35. Does a significant number of non-member Indians live within the tribe’s jurisdiction?

yes no Comments:

36. Do a significant number of non-Indians visit tribal lands on a regular basis?

yes no If yes, please indicate the types of visits (check all that apply):

Gaming Tourism Travelers on Interstate Highway
 Resort Hunting/Fishing Transients on Other Highways
 Smokeshop Other: _____

37. Are there problems presented by these visitors, such as increased traffic violations, hunting or wood cutting violations?

yes no If yes, please describe these problems and indicate whether disputes are presently settled in tribal court or other forum (please specify forum, such as state court):

Traffic Violations (Tribal Court)

38. Are there federal laws or treaty provisions that *specifically* limit *your* tribe's jurisdiction over non-members or non-Indians (as opposed to limitations on all tribes)?

yes no If yes, please indicate the specific law or provision and the limitation:

Federal Statute: _____ over
 Non-Indians Non-member Indians

Treaty Provision: _____ over
 Non-Indians Non-member Indians

39. Over which groups of persons does your tribal constitution or traditional system permit jurisdiction?

Tribal Constitution

- Tribal Members Only
- All persons, civil
- All persons, criminal
- All Indians, civil
- All Indians, criminal

Traditional System

- Tribal Members Only
- All persons, civil
- All persons, criminal
- All Indians, civil
- All Indians, criminal

40. Has the tribe, by tribal legislation, limited its jurisdiction to members?

yes no If yes, is the jurisdiction General over all actions, or as to specific matters (please specify the subject matters):

Part Five: TRIBAL CODES

The purpose of this Section is to provide information regarding any Tribal Codes that apply to practice in Tribal Court.

41. Does your tribe's Constitution or Tribal Code contain a Bill of Rights? yes no
 If yes, are copies available?

42. Does your tribe have a written code? yes no

If yes, the code is based on:

- written customary law
- a modern (Western-style) code
- Both customary law and modern (Western-style) code

43. Is a copy of the tribal code readily available to any person who wants it? yes no
 If yes, where can a copy be obtained?

Name: Taos Tribal Court Phone: (505) 751-0488 Cost: \$ 100.00

If no, please specify reason: There are not enough funds to produce more copies.

44. Has the tribal code ever been comprehensively codified?

yes no

If yes, when was the last time the tribal codified?

Date: _____

45. Please indicate which of the following are covered in your tribal code (check all that apply):

<p>FAMILY LAW (Domestic Relations)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Marriage</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Divorce</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child Support and Enforcement</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visitation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Paternity</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Guardianship</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abuse and Neglect</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Out of home placement</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Adoption (including ICWA)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Probate (Estate distributions)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elder Protection</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p>JUVENILE JUSTICE</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Status offenses (curfew, truancy, underage possession of alcohol, etc.)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-status offenses (criminal)</p>	<p>HOUSING AND LAND USE</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evictions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Housing authority actions</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trespass</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Land assignments</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Land use</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landlord-tenant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Grazing/Farming</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p>TRIBAL AFFAIRS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> TERO and other employment rights</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Elections</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Voter Registration</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Eligibility to run for office</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Recounts</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Campaign Financing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other election disputes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Appeals</p>
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<p>ENVIRONMENTAL</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Housing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Building</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sanitation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Water</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Air</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Noise</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p>CIVIL COMMITMENTS</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental Health</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substance Abuse</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Juvenile commitment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Physical disability</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Developmentally disabled (severely retarded) or other disorder (stroke, persistent vegetative state) disability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>	<p>CRIMINAL LAW</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assault and battery</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harassment and stalking</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kidnapping</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trespass</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property damage</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larceny</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extortion</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embezzlement</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Receiving stolen property</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Illegal kickbacks</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Marital and familial offenses (e.g. bigamy, unlawful cohabitation, incest)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual offenses (other than children as victims)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alcohol and other intoxicants (including selling, possession, bootlegging, trafficking, distributing, etc.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Homicide (murder & lesser offenses involving the death of a human being)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crimes against children & dependents, including sex crimes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bribery</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Perjury and false affirmations</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Malicious prosecution</p>
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<p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p>TRAFFIC</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DWI</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Speeding</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reckless Operation</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Driver's Licenses</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle Licenses</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insurance requirements</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Seatbelt</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p>COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Contracts</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Consumer protection</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collection of debts</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p>TORTS</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Defamation, libel, slander</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy to commit a crime</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Worthless checks</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Welfare fraud</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Securities fraud</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Racketeering</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Election fraud or interfering with elections</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Computer crimes (e.g. computer access with intent to defraud or embezzle, unauthorized computer use)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Controlled substances (e.g. drug selling, possession, distribution, trafficking, etc.)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crimes against public peace (e.g. disorderly conduct, unlawful assembly, rioting)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interference with law enforcement (e.g. resisting, evading, obstruction, assault, battery, refusing to aid, concealing identity, aiding a felon, escape from jail, assisting escape, bringing contraband into jail)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Official misconduct (e.g. demanding or receiving illegal fees, making false vouchers, paying or receiving tribal money for services not provided)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>
<p>COURT PROCEDURES</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Criminal Court procedures (e.g. requirements for filing a complaint, time limits for hearings and motions, format for documents)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civil Court procedures (e.g. requirements for filing a petition or complaint, time limits for hearings and motions, format for documents)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Juvenile or Children's Court procedures (e.g. requirements for filing a petition, time limits for hearings and motions, format for documents)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Appellate Court procedures (e.g. requirements for allowing appeals, time limits, notice of appeal)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Court procedures (e.g. from decisions made by tribal departments such as housing, personnel, land use & realty, environmental, membership, or elections board)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Procedures for appeals from council (legislative) decisions.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Code of Judicial or Professional Responsibility</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>	<p>OTHER CODE PROVISIONS (Please specify):</p> <p>See attached forms.</p>

46. Has your tribe waived its immunity from suit in court? yes no

If yes, please indicate which of the following applies:

- General Waiver
- Limited Waiver (check all that apply)
 - For tort claims against the tribe
 - For civil rights claims against the tribe
 - For specific business activities
 - As to special tribal public agencies (e.g. housing authority)
 - As to tribally-owned business enterprises
- Other: State Gaming Compact

- Specific to:
 - Tribal Court
 - Federal Court
 - State Court

47. Is the civil jurisdiction of your tribe limited by any federal statute? yes no

If yes, please indicate the statute:

Part Six: INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

48. Does your tribe, pueblo, or village have any agreements to RECEIVE services from or to use facilities of a state, county, municipality, or other tribe? yes no

If no, go to question #48.

If yes, please complete the following chart:

Type of Service	Type of Agreement	Agreement is With:
Cross Deputization	<input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Other formal agreements <input type="checkbox"/> Informal agreements	
Shelter Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other formal agreements <input type="checkbox"/> Informal agreements	Taos County Juvenile Detention Facility
Treatment/Counseling	<input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Other formal agreements <input type="checkbox"/> Informal agreements	
Detention Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Other formal agreements <input type="checkbox"/> Informal agreements	
Correction Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Other formal agreements <input type="checkbox"/> Informal agreements	
<i>Other (Please Describe)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Other formal agreements <input type="checkbox"/> Informal agreements	

49. Does your tribe, pueblo, or village have any agreements to PROVIDE services or the use of facilities TO a state, county, municipality, or other tribe? yes no

If yes, please complete the following chart:

Type of Service	Type of Agreement	Agreement is With:
Cross Deputization	<input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Other formal agreements <input type="checkbox"/> Informal agreements	
Shelter Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Other formal agreements <input type="checkbox"/> Informal agreements	
Treatment/Counseling	<input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Other formal agreements <input type="checkbox"/> Informal agreements	
Detention Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Other formal agreements <input type="checkbox"/> Informal agreements	
Correction Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Other formal agreements <input type="checkbox"/> Informal agreements	
<i>Other (Please Describe)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Other formal agreements <input type="checkbox"/> Informal agreements	

Part Seven: STATE & OTHER GOVERNMENTAL JURISDICTION

The purpose of this Section is to provide information regarding jurisdiction that has been granted by your tribe to any state or other governmental entity.

50. Has any state government been granted jurisdiction over any portion of your reservation by treaty, federal legislation, or tribal legislation? yes no

If yes, jurisdiction was granted by (Check all that apply, and describe briefly):

<input type="checkbox"/> Treaty: (Please specify and describe)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Legislation (P.L. 83-280 or other – please specify and describe)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Legislation (Please specify and describe)	

51. Is state jurisdiction limited? yes no

If yes, jurisdiction is limited to:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Persons: (Please specify and describe)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Subject Matter: (Please specify and describe)	

52. Does your tribe exercise concurrent jurisdiction with the state?

yes no

If yes, concurrent jurisdiction is over:

<input type="checkbox"/> Persons: (Please specify and describe)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Subject Matter: (Please specify and describe)	

53. Does your tribe receive services from the state and municipal governments, law enforcement and court systems under state jurisdiction?

yes no

If yes, the services provided are the result of:

Agreement or Contract

Federal Court order or settlement

The services provided are: