

Chris Bengé  
Secretary of State  
and  
Native American Affairs



Mary Fallin  
Governor

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY OF STATE  
AND  
NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

August 12, 2015

«TITLE» «FIRST» «LAST»  
«TRIBE»  
«ADDRESS»  
«CITY», OK «ZIP»

Dear «TITLE» «LAST»:

As Secretary of Native American Affairs, I want to take this opportunity to make sure you are aware of the new law referenced below and ask that you respond accordingly.

On May 6, 2015, Governor Mary Fallin signed into law H.B. 1834. This new law requires the State of Oklahoma to identify and notify the appropriate federally recognized American Indian tribe or nation (hereinafter, "Nation") whenever a member or citizen commits a delinquent offense that brings him or her into contact with the State's juvenile justice system.

This notification will allow Nations to become aware of the rehabilitation and treatment services provided to their youth by the juvenile justice system, to understand the resources currently available, and to enter into future partnerships with the State to develop services which are more culturally relevant to Native American youth. These partnerships may include, but are not limited to: training advocates who will assist youth and families in successfully navigating the juvenile court system, as well as providing technical assistance to aid in the development of prevention and diversion programs within Native American communities. Moreover, these future partnerships may be uniquely tailored to address each Nation's specific resources and needs.

The first step in implementing this new law is critical. Each Nation will be responsible in providing a point of contact to receive notification whenever a tribal member or citizen is identified during the intake process.

To establish a point of contact for your Nation, please send the name(s), telephone number(s), and email address(es) of your Nation's designee(s) to: Anna Kelly, Deputy Division Director of Community-based Youth Services, State of Oklahoma, Office of Juvenile Affairs at [anna.kelly@oja.ok.gov](mailto:anna.kelly@oja.ok.gov). Beginning November 1, 2015, State juvenile justice system

representatives will notify points of contact, as described above, by using the information you have provided.

Please direct any questions you might have regarding this letter to Tookie Hayes, my Executive Assistant. Her contact information is: [tookie.hayes@sos.ok.gov](mailto:tookie.hayes@sos.ok.gov) or you may call: (405) 521-6434.

Thank you so much for your help in making this important new program a success.

Sincerely,

Chris Bengé  
Secretary of State and Native American Affairs