



Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Victim Services Program



Program Foundations

Policy # 01-01

Applicability: All staff, paid and un-paid, assigned to Tribal Victim Services program

Effective Date:

Next Review Date:

Prior Version Date: None

SUMMARY

To provide clarity regarding the foundational understandings the Tribal Victim Services program works from. Clearly stating the programs framing philosophy, values, vision, mission, purpose, and function of the program in the context of the organizational structure of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, assists program staff, leadership, and the community to best focus efforts, retain consistency, and set priorities.

POLICY

Philosophy

We believe every victim has the right...

...to be heard.

...to be believed.

...to non-judgmental supportive services.

...to confidentiality.

...to choose their own path and pace toward healing.

We believe inter-personal violence, particularly family violence, is not an aspect of traditional Potawatomi culture and beliefs.

We believe the entire community shares responsibility for preventing and ending violence in the tribal community.

We believe the systems created to care for the Prairie Band Potawatomi people should be appropriate, responsive, holistic, effective, professional, and accountable.

We believe crimes involving violence are in fact crimes against the individual victim, the victim's family, and the community. We believe perpetrators must be held accountable for their actions.

We believe cooperation and collaboration with various service providers, systems partners, and community groups to develop a coordinated community response is vital to achieve the mission, goals, and objectives of the program.

We believe the most effective strategies to assist victims of crime are empowerment focused and based upon the strengths of the individual, family, and community.

Values Statement

The Tribal Victim Services program shares and supports the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Values Statement –

We the Prairie Band Potawatomi people known as the "Keepers of the Fire" shall:

1. Maintain, protect, and nurture our culture and spiritual and historic values through the celebration of its unique traditions, language, and sovereignty.
2. Promote education as the corner stone of our values.
3. Show pride and support the endeavors of our youth.
4. Acknowledge, respect, and value the wisdom of our tribal elders with guidance for our future generations.
5. Honor, respect, and strive for justice by treating all with equality and fairness.
6. Protect and maintain tribal lands and other natural resources.
7. Promote, enhance, and sustain the health, safety, and quality of life for all.

Vision Statement

The Tribal Victim Services program shares and supports the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Vision Statement

As a sovereign Nation, we shall ensure self-sufficiency that respects diversity and equality while working within a spirit of cooperation and fairness for a high standard of living and quality of life.

As a sovereign Nation we shall strive to provide an environment of improved well-being for our people including education, health, safety, and welfare while valuing our culture, traditions, and all resources.

As a sovereign Nation we shall accomplish this for all generations with a system of value-based management to respect all views.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation – Tribal Victim Services Program (TVS) is to enhance rights, resources, and respect for tribal victims and Native communities hurt by crime in northeast Kansas.

Program Purpose

The first priority of the Tribal Victim Services Program is to assist Native American victims of crime and their families in meeting their immediate essential needs subsequent to crime victimization. The TVS program provides support and assistance while the victim and victim family is involved in the criminal or civil justice process, or at other times subsequent to abuse or victimization, and works with victims and their families toward finding a sense of justice and healing. Specialized services are afforded to victims of domestic and sexual violence, dating violence and stalking.

Secondly, the TVS program seeks to educate and increase awareness and healing amongst the community and allied professionals regarding violence in the tribal community, within tribal families, and individuals experiencing or exposed to violence.

RELATED INFORMATION

Definitions

- **Victim** – Any person who suffers direct or threatened physical, emotional, or financial harm as the result of the commission or attempted commission of a crime against such person. PLOC 28-1-3
- **Native American** – An enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe.

Policy Owner

Tribal Victim Services program manager

Other Documents

- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Values & Vision Statements – <http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/values-and-vision.aspx>
- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Law and Order Code, Title 28 Victims' Rights Code http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/upload/pdf/Title_28_Victims_Rights_Code_JULY_2012.pdf

PROCEDURE

Tribal Victim Services program staff, including paid and un-paid persons, should be familiar with the programs foundational understandings.

Required Training or Certifications: None in excess of existing job description.

Orientation

1. New program staff will receive a copy of the program's policy and procedures during orientation period.
2. Staff will sign an acknowledgement of receipt and agreement.

Review

1. The TVS Program Manager will review the foundational statements for continued accuracy and consistency as part of the bi-annual policy review.