

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN SERVICES

INTERNAL MANAGEMENT POLICY 06-01

**SUBJECT:** NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL RELATIONS

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 31, 2006

1.0 POLICY: The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services recognizes that Native American veterans may face unique obstacles to claiming their rightful benefits. ADVS is committed to developing cooperative relationships with Arizona Tribes, and will respect the concerns of their veterans in accordance with ADVS policies and the Arizona Tribes' cultural needs.

2.0 AUTHORITY: ARS §41-601 *et seq.*

3.0 RESPONSIBILITY: The ADVS Director is responsible for the implementation of this policy, along with division managers.

4.0 DEFINITIONS:

"Arizona Tribe" means any one of 22 federally recognized tribes who hold land in the state of Arizona.

"Indian Country" is any land under the control of an Arizona Tribe.

5.0 PROCEDURES:

5.1 ADVS will conduct business within Indian Country that will not interfere with Tribal business activities.

5.2 ADVS will enter into Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) or Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) when considered mutually appropriate by ADVS and an interested Tribal Government.

5.3 ADVS will work cooperatively with Arizona Tribes to ensure proper delivery of services in accordance with established policies.

5.4 ADVS will conduct training, when appropriate and as resources allow, in order to encourage and improve Departmental/Tribal understanding and communication.

5.5 ADVS will open its training programs to Tribal officials and Tribal staff whenever possible.

5.6 ADVS staff will relay Tribal issues, including requests from Tribes for assistance, to the appropriate division manager(s) as quickly as possible.

5.7 ADVS staff will obtain approval from their division manager before initiating contacts with Tribes. This does not apply to referral of complaints to the Tribes or contact on ongoing issues previously approved by the division manager.

6.0 IMPLEMENTATION:

Implementation shall occur on the effective date of the policy and will continue until changes require a revision.

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Patrick F. Chorpenning, Director

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