

Wabanaki Legal News

A Newsletter of Pine Tree Legal Assistance

Volume 12 Issue 1

www.ptla.org/wabanaki

Spring 2009

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Crossing the Border in 2009

by Michael Guare, Esq.

In the last issue of *Wabanaki Legal News*, we reported on new border crossing rules. Beginning on June 1, 2009 most people entering the United States by land will need a passport or a passport card (see *Passport Cards*, below). See *Wabanaki Legal News*, Summer 2008, page 2.

The new rule has not changed. It will go into effect on June 1. However, the new rule says that there are **exceptions for Indians** under some circumstances.

Canadian-Born Indians

The federal government of Canada is developing a new version of the Certificate of Indian Status card. The Certificate of Indian Status card is often called the "INAC" card. The new INAC card will be called the Secure Certificate of Indian Status. Hopefully, the new card will be ready by June. If the U.S. government approves the new card, the new card may be used instead of a passport to enter the United States by land. Remember that current versions of the Indian Status card will *not* be accepted at the U.S. border instead of a passport. Learn more on-line at:

<http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/br/is/ifk-eng.asp>

<http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/br/is/prtotp-eng.asp>

http://www.getyouhome.gov/html/lang_can/can_sa.html

U.S.-Born Indians

The new passport rule allows any federally-recognized tribe in the United States to produce a new tribal ID card which can be used instead of a passport or a passport card to enter the United States by land. There are several issues involved with this. These issues include strict security requirements, access to tribal membership records, cost and other matters. The Penobscot Nation has decided not to produce new ID cards. The Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik is interested in producing new ID cards. However, due to the cost and other issues, the Tribe is unable to do so at the present time. The Tribe hopes to be able to produce new ID cards at some point in the future. We do not believe that the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township plans to produce a new ID card, but we were not able to confirm that by the time this paper was published.

However, both the Aroostook Band of Micmacs and the Houlton Band of Maliseets may produce new tribal ID

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FRANCIS V

Maine Law Court Says Tribe Had Exclusive Jurisdiction

by Paul Thibeault, Esq.

The State's highest court has made a final decision in the long legal battle between Pamela Francis and the Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy Housing Authority. On December 11, 2008 the Supreme Judicial Court (also known as the Law Court) held that the state courts had no jurisdiction and that the tribal court had exclusive jurisdiction over the case because it involves internal tribal matters.

The complicated history of the case has been described in previous issues of the *Wabanaki Legal News*. The dispute arose in 1998. Francis claimed that she was illegally evicted and that the Housing Authority unlawfully denied her ownership interest in a Turnkey III house at Pleasant Point. In addition to filing a case in Passamaquoddy Tribal Court Francis tried to pursue claims in the Washington County Superior Court. She claimed that the tribal court and tribal law would not provide her an adequate legal forum for all of her claims.

In the tribal court law suit Judge Rebecca Irving decided on

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Images of the Tribal Communities That We Serve



Indian Island, Winter 2009

U.S. Supreme Court Decides Important Indian Law Case

On February 24, 2009 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the case of *Carciere v. Salazar* that Indian tribes that were not under federal jurisdiction in 1934 cannot use the land-into-trust process under the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA). The direct impact of the ruling stops the Interior Department from putting land into trust for the Narragansett Tribe. But the court decision could have a major impact on many other tribes and other issues because the decision restricts the term "Indian" as defined in the IRA.

According to expert witnesses at a Congressional hearing on April 1, Congress needs to amend the IRA to offset the court ruling. Otherwise the court decision could affect tribal business organizations, contracts, tribal lands, public safety and other services on reservations. For example, it might mean that members of some Tribes will not be eligible for preference in hiring by the Bureau of Indian Affairs because that right is based on the IRA.

The next issue of the Wabanaki Legal News will give an update on the impact of the decision, including any action that Congress or the Interior Department may take to reverse or limit the impact of the court ruling.

The Native American Unit at Pine Tree Legal Assistance gives free legal help to low-income Native Americans. The unit's priorities are cases involving an individual's status as a Native American, including:

- ♦ *Race discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, education and credit*
- ♦ *Jay Treaty / cross border rights*
- ♦ *Tribal housing*
- ♦ *Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) issues*
- ♦ *Civil rights violations*

Call us at **1-800-879-7463**. Contact information for Pine Tree's statewide offices can be found on page 8.

The **Wabanaki Legal News** is published by Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc. The views expressed by individual authors are not necessarily shared by Pine Tree Legal Assistance or its staff.

Executive Director of PTLA:	Nan Heald, Esq.
PTLA Native American Unit	
Directing Attorney:	Eric Nelson, Esq.
Staff Attorneys:	Mike Guare, Esq. Paul Thibeault, Esq. Jeff Ashby, Esq.
KIDS Attorney:	Robert Meggison, Esq.
Paralegal:	Danny Mills

Wabanaki Legal News is online @:
www.ptla.org/wabanaki

OPINION - Paul Thibeault

New Protections for Religious Rights of Native Prisoners

Native spiritual gatherings in prison are essential to the survival of tribal communities.

The Sipayik Criminal Justice Commission has been negotiating with the Maine Department of Corrections (DOC) about restrictions on the rights of Native prisoners to practice traditional Indian religion. The negotiations were supported by the Maine Indian Tribal State Commission. As a result of these efforts, some big changes have been made:

- Native prisoners have more access to spiritual leaders and religious materials.
- The first-ever sweat lodge ceremonies have been held at some of the prisons and the Commissioner has agreed to have sweats at all state prisons at least four times per year.
- In February the Maine Department of Corrections formally adopted new written rules. These rules will protect the gains that have been made and will promote better solutions as new issues come up in the future.

One of the key parts of the new rules is the formal recognition of the Wabanaki Tribal Advisory Group, appointed by the Tribes in Maine to advise the State prison authorities on Native religion. The Advisory Group includes members from all of the tribal communities in Maine.

Religious freedom for prisoners is an important issue in the context of the relationship between the Indian Tribes in Maine and the State. Compared to non-Indians, a lopsided number of Native people, especially young adults, are confined in Maine prisons and jails. The Settlement Acts give the State jurisdiction over serious crimes on reservations by Indians. Otherwise, many of the Native American prisoners in Maine would be held in Federal and Tribal prisons rather than state prisons. The Federal Bureau of Prisons is governed by the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. It has policies that allow more access to Native spiritual practices than Maine has allowed in the past. The Tribal jails that exist in many parts of Indian Country allow even greater access to Native religion.

The interests of both the Tribes and the State will be served by the removal of unnecessary barriers. The new policy will promote both prison security and rehabilitation. Indian spiritual ways are rooted in a communal connection to the natural world. Prison environments make it hard for isolated Indian prisoners to hold on their traditional ways. Access to ceremonies with other Native prisoners can help them to keep their sense of personal identity, and build up their capacity to deal with the difficult challenges of prison life.

In much the same way that the Indian Child Welfare Act promotes tribal survival by preserving the connection of tribes to their children, Native spiritual gatherings in prisons are a cultural lifeline to tribal members who might otherwise be lost as human resources to their tribes.

Francis V

Continued from Page 1

March 3, 2008 that the Housing Authority had violated Tribal law. On the major claims, the Judge awarded Francis \$10,000 in damages for Emotional Distress and ordered the Housing Authority to give Francis a deed to the property. The decision was appealed to the Passamaquoddy Appellate Court. On April 16, 2009 the Appellate Judge decided in favor of Francis on the major claims. The Appellate Judge also held that the trial court should have awarded Francis reasonable attorney's fees. The case was sent back to the trial court to determine the amount of attorney's fees.

The parallel state court case was going on in the Washington County Superior Court at the same time as the tribal court case. It was appealed to the Law Court five times. In its latest, and final, decision the Law Court upheld the ruling of Superior Court Justice E. Allen Hunter that the state court had no jurisdiction because the legal dispute involves "internal tribal matters" under the terms of the 1980 Settlement between the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the State of Maine. However, the Law Court did not wholly adopt the legal reasoning of Justice Hunter. As a result, while the case is a legal victory for tribal sovereignty, it may not be as far-reaching as it might have been if the Law Court had followed Justice Hunter's lead.

Perhaps the biggest difference between the two approaches is that Justice Hunter believed that the term "internal tribal matters" is inherently ambiguous and should be interpreted according to the historical judicial rule that requires courts to narrowly construe ambiguous statutes that restrict the sovereignty of Indian tribes. (This is one of a set of interpretive rules known collectively as the Indian Law Canons of Construction). Based on that rule Justice Hunter was convinced that the provision of affordable housing for tribal members is an example of "related activities" that are so closely tied to basic functions of tribal self-government that they should be considered "internal tribal matters" even when the tribal government chooses to use non-tribal means to achieve its goals. Justice Hunter's approach seems to be a workable and flexible approach that will promote effective tribal self-government in Maine's Indian Country.

While agreeing with Justice Hunter's conclusion that the state court did not have jurisdiction, the Law Court took a somewhat different approach to the issue of internal tribal matters. It did not concede the ambiguity of the "internal tribal matters" language and it did not expressly rely on the historical Indian Law canons of construction, as Justice Hunter did. Instead the Court reviewed the criteria developed in its prior decisions, and those of the federal courts, on the "internal tribal matters" issue. Then the Court listed seven factors present in the *Francis* case which indicate that it involves an internal tribal matter over which the Tribal Court had exclusive jurisdiction. One of those factors was that all of the disputed actions involved only members of the tribe *and agencies controlled by the Tribe*. The Law Court did not clearly adopt Justice Hunter's concept of using non-tribal means to achieve the goals of tribal self-government. But the Law Court took a step in that direction by recognizing that, even though the Housing Authority was incorporated under state law, it is actually an arm of tribal government that serves important tribal goals.

Unfortunately for both Indians and non-Indians in Maine, it is unlikely that this will be the last courtroom battle concerning the scope of tribal self-governance in Maine. But the Law Court's decision in *Francis V* may be a signal that the state courts are taking a more flexible and realistic approach concerning the definition of internal tribal matters. That could give the Maine Tribes a better chance to overcome the many social and economic challenges that still confront the tribal communities almost three decades after the Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement.

Crossing the Border

Continued from Page 1

cards. The U.S. Government would have to approve the new cards. If that happens, a person who has one of the new cards will be able to enter the United States by land without a passport or a passport card. No new ID cards have been produced or approved yet, however. For now, remember that as of June 1, if you travel outside the United States you will need a passport or a passport card to re-enter the United States by land *unless* your tribe produces a new ID card which is approved by the U.S. government.

Air Travel

The rules discussed above apply only to people entering the United States by land. Anyone entering the United States by air from another country must have a passport. There are no exceptions to this rule for Indians. If you are flying into the United States from another country, you must have a passport even if you are an Indian.

However, for flights within the United States (domestic flights), the rules say that existing tribal ID cards should be accepted as proof of identity. Nevertheless, if you have other forms of ID, it would be wise to have them with you, just in case.

Passport Cards

A normal passport comes in the form of a small booklet. A U.S. citizen can obtain a document known as a passport card instead of a passport booklet. Passport cards are considerably less expensive than passport booklets. However, a passport card can only be used to enter the United States from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or the Caribbean by land or at a seaport. Passport cards **cannot be used at all** for international air travel.

For more information, go to:

www.travel.state.gov/passport/ppt_card/ppt_card_3926.html.

Other Documents

There are a few other documents which can be used instead of passports to enter the United States by land or by air. These documents don't have anything to do with a person's status as an Indian. Rather, they are documents which can be used instead of a passport by anyone who is eligible to get one. For more information, go to <http://www.dhs.gov/xtrvlsec/crossingborders>.

Jay Treaty

Under the Jay Treaty, as interpreted by the U.S. government, Canadian-born Indians with 50% or more

Please see **Crossing the Border**, Page 7



CASE NOTES

Guardian Ad Litem Cases

The Maine court has asked Pine Tree to help Micmac and Maliseet families by serving as Guardians Ad Litem ("GAL") in family cases, such as divorces. We try to help low income children by advocating for their best interests in these court cases, where parental rights are an issue. We are not involved in "child protective" cases - where the state is trying to remove a child from the parental home. In those cases the State appoints a GAL and a lawyer for one or both low income parents at no cost. The Presque Isle office of our Native American Unit is doing this GAL work.

In cases involving Native children the GAL is especially important. A GAL can highlight for the court issues similar to those raised by the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), such as:

- placing a child with a Native relative if the child may be removed from the parent's home
- ensuring or establishing a good relationship between the child and Native culture
- promoting contact between the child and Native parents and relatives, regardless of placement.

We also believe that doing this GAL work will better prepare us to help the new Tribal Family Court at the Houlton Band of Maliseets with its child protective cases. We want to make sure that the courts follow the Indian Child Welfare Act in those cases, as well.

Cross Border Rights: Tuition Reduced for College Student

A U.S. college charged a Canadian born Native American student the higher international tuition rate. The school was not aware of Jay Treaty border crossing rights. The school insisted that the Indian student show them a "green card" as proof he was a Permanent Resident. Only then would he be eligible for lower resident tuition rates. Later the student had to quit school due to the high tuition rate. Pine Tree Legal Assistance provided legal information to the college. The college then accepted tribal documents as proof of the student's legal resident status. The college retroactively reduced the tuition by \$11,500. The student is back in school and has 5 semesters left to get his degree in business administration.

Employment Discrimination

We successfully settled a case of employment discrimination on behalf of a Native American client.

Unemployment Benefits

A worker was unfairly accused of making a false statement on a weekly unemployment claim report. We helped the worker appeal this to a fair hearing. The Hearing Officer agreed that the worker's testimony was credible. The Hearing Officer found that the worker had not knowingly failed to disclose required information. As a result, the penalty of \$1640 was removed.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Overpayment

The Social Security Administration said that our client received an overpayment of SSI benefits. She had earned wages from part-time work. The review showed that our client had reported her income in good faith. Her request for a waiver was granted and the overpayment of \$872 was removed.

Health Care Power of Attorney

We wrote a Health Care Power of Attorney for a disabled Indian elder. He has a progressive medical condition that will gradually reduce his mental ability. He wanted his daughter to have the Power of Attorney so that she can:

- talk to his doctor about his medical condition and treatment, and
- make medical decisions for him if and when he becomes unable to make them himself.

Harassment by Debt Collectors

Debt collectors often send letters and make calls in hopes of scaring people into making payments they can't afford. These debt collectors know that in many cases the debtors would not have to make any payments if the case went to court. We helped a frail Indian elder who was emotionally upset because of repeated contacts from a debt collector. We sent a "cease and desist" letter to the debt collector. Under the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, such a letter requires them to stop making calls and sending letters. The creditor can still file a law suit on the alleged debt. However, in most cases they give up when the alleged debtors do not have enough assets or income to pay on the debt. The law protects certain basic assets (such as a modest home) and low income amounts.

Problems With the IRS???

WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP! Pine Tree Legal Assistance's Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) offers *free* representation to qualifying taxpayers facing the following tax problems:

- *Outstanding tax debt*
- *Levies and liens*
- *Earned Income Credit denials*
- *Exams and audits*
- *Innocent/Injured spouse relief*
- *Tax Court representation*

Call 942-8241 to speak to one of our LITC advocates today. We also offer free tax workshops on a variety of tax-related issues.

www.ptla.org/taxpayer/litc.htm

Unemployment Benefits

What are unemployment benefits?

If you lose your job, you may be able to get Unemployment Compensation Benefits. This state benefit program can help you to meet your basic needs while you are looking for a new job. The maximum weekly benefit is \$344. The average weekly amount is around \$260. You can also get \$10 per week more for each dependent child. You may get benefits for up to 26 weeks. You may also be able to get extended benefits for 33 more weeks.

How do I apply?

If you lose your job, you should apply for Unemployment Benefits. Many people in Maine are eligible for these benefits but never apply. Even if you are fired from your job or you quit your job, you may still qualify for benefits. If you are only seeking part-time work, you may still qualify. You can also get this benefit while you are in an "approved" training program.

You can apply online, by phone, or by mail.

Online:

www.maine.gov/labor/unemployment/howtofile.html

Phone:

1-800-593-7660; TTY: 1-888-457-8884

Mail:

Get forms from your nearest Career Center; some town offices also have them.

Do I have a right to appeal?

Yes. If you apply and are denied, seek legal help right away. Call:

Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP)
1-800-442-4293

They may be able to find a lawyer to help you with your appeal. You have only have **15 days to appeal**.

For more information about your right to Unemployment Benefits, check these websites:

Pine Tree Legal Assistance:

www.ptla.org/cliented/benefits/unemployment.htm

Maine Department of Labor

www.maine.gov/labor/unemployment/index.html

Also, if you have questions, please call Pine Tree Legal's Employment Law Project: 1-800-879-7463.

BASIC RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE APPLYING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS:

- *the right to apply for benefits (in person, by phone, or online)*
- *the right to a written decision*
- *the right to appeal any decision related to your benefits by going to a fair hearing (Read the notice carefully and be sure to appeal within the specified time.)*
- *the right to a written notice before your benefits are cut off*
- *the right to a fact finding meeting before any benefit is terminated*
- *the right to read and copy the written rules of the program to help you figure out whether or not a decision about your benefits was right*

Images of the Tribal Communities That We Serve



OUTREACH SCHEDULE

Passamaquoddy Tribe

Indian Township-Clinic at Peter Dana Point:

1st and 3rd Tuesdays 1pm - 3pm

Sipayik Tribal Courtroom:

2nd and 4th Tuesdays 1pm - 3pm

It is helpful to make an appointment, but walk-in clients are welcome. To make an appointment call: 255-8656

Penobscot Nation

Penobscot Tribal Courtroom

Last Tuesday of each month from 10am-12pm
(changes to schedule announced in Tribal Newsletter)

It is helpful to make an appointment, but walk-in clients are welcome. To make an appointment and to confirm outreach dates and times call the Bangor office at: 1-800-879-7463

Houlton Band of Maliseets

Aroostook Band of Micmacs

Call Presque Isle office at: 764-4349 for outreach dates and times and to make an appointment.

“You Be the Judge”

Indian Island teens participate in juvenile justice program.

Bob Meggison is an attorney with Pine Tree's KIDS Legal project. He works out of our Bangor office. Among other things, Bob serves as defense counsel for juveniles in the Penobscot Nation Tribal Court.

In February Bob participated in an activity that permitted him to step out of his usual role while at the same time drawing on his experience as an attorney. In conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club of Indian Island, the Penobscot Nation Tribal Court sponsored a “You Be the Judge” program. It involved more than forty Indian Island teenagers. The program is based on the work of a retired judge from Arizona. The goal is to stimulate thinking about the many forces that affect the lives of teenagers, particularly those who find themselves in the juvenile justice system, while at the same time fostering an appreciation of the needs of society and victims.

The group at Indian Island was divided into two. Each was presented with a “fact pattern” about a fictional fourteen year old, “Ericka”. She had been charged with assault and possession of drug paraphernalia. In fact, Ericka was not so fictional. Her story was that of a young woman who had appeared before the judge several times. Each group had to figure out a plan for Ericka as if they were the judges in her case. They spent around ninety minutes discussing Ericka's family situation, life experiences and behaviors. They debated the relative impact of each on the conduct that brought her to court. Tribal Court Judge Eric Mehnert, Juvenile Corrections Officer Kathy Paul, Bob Meggison,

and Micah Robbins, Director of Special Projects for Jobs for Maine Graduates, facilitated the discussion.

There followed a lively discussion of the possible options (treatment/punishment/restoration). Each group developed a plan and then presented it to the whole group. The group of judges decided that Erika should be placed on probation for one year. During that time she should undergo counseling focused on substance abuse and anger. They also agreed on a community service component to her sentence since a pair of glasses had been broken during the assault. By the end of the program, participants had learned that judicial decision-making is no easy matter and that it takes into account a variety of factors, including personal and societal ones.

Maine Agencies Providing Foreclosure Prevention Counseling Services

Aroostook Community Action Program

Aroostook County
Jeff Heron 764-3721

Washington-Hancock Community Action Program

Washington and Hancock Counties
Mary Boylan 207 546-7544 x 3320

Kennebec Valley Community Action Program

Kennebec and Somerset Counties
Kim Moulton 859-1637

Community Concepts, Inc.

Androscoggin and Oxford Counties
Linda Lajoie 739-6550

People's Regional Opportunity Program

Cumberland County
Maurice Geoffroy 874-1140

York County Community Action

York County
Chris Laroche 324-5762 ext. 2960
Jennifer Gordon 324-5762 ext. 2959

Coastal Enterprises, Inc. Statewide

Diane Sherman 882-7552 ext. 126

Consumer Credit Counseling Services (CCCS)

Statewide
Justin Dobson 1-800-439-CCCS (2227)

Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc.

Statewide
Local phone numbers listed on page 8



Indian Island, Winter 2009

Crossing the Border

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Indian blood have the right to freely enter the United States by land. Nothing in the new rule changes the Jay Treaty. However, the new rule requires everyone who enters the United States to present a secure document that proves their identity. This includes U.S. citizens and citizens of other countries. It also includes people with Jay Treaty rights. Like everyone else, people with Jay Treaty rights will need to prove their identity with a secure document, such as a passport or a new secure INAC card, in order to cross the border.

Canadian-born Indians may also need to present proof that they have at least 50% Indian blood. It is important to remember that a passport does not prove blood quantum. An INAC card - even new secure INAC card - does not prove blood quantum, either. Therefore, if you have at least 50% Indian blood, you should bring proof of your blood quantum with you to the border. If you are asked for this proof and you do not have it, you may not be allowed to enter the United States.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT AND AGENCIES

AROOSTOOK BAND OF MICMACS:

www.micmac-nsn.gov

Administration	764-1972 1-800-355-1435
Micmac Head Start Program	768-3217
Health Department	764-7219 1-800-750-1972
Micmac Housing	768-3217
Child and Family Services	764-1972

HOULTON BAND OF MALISEET INDIANS:

www.maliseets.com

Administration	532-4273 1-800-564-8524(in state) 1-800-545-8524(out of state)
Maliseet Health Department	532-2240 or 1-800-640-2266
Maliseet Health Clinic	532-4229
Maliseet Head Start Program	532-2410
Maliseet Housing Authority	532-7637 or 532-9140
Indian Child Welfare	532-7260 or cell: 866-3103
Social Services and LEAD	532-7260 or 1-800-532-7280
Domestic Violence Program	532-6401 or 694-1353(24 hour)
Domestic Violence office #	532-2240 ext. 28 or 1-800-640-2266

PENOBSCOT INDIAN NATION:

www.penobscotnation.org

Administration	827-7776 or 1-877-736-6272
Indian Health Services	827-6101 (and after hours emergency answering service) or 817-7400

Penobscot Housing Dept.	817-7370
Penobscot Human Services	817-7492
Indian Island Police Dept	817-7358 (dispatcher) 827-7188 (emergency) 827-6336 (business)
Domestic Violence	817-7491

PENOBSCOT TRIBAL COURT SYSTEM

Director of Tribal Court	817-7342
Clerk of Courts	817-7329

PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBE:

PLEASANT POINT www.wabanaki.com

Administration	853-2600
Pleasant Point Health Center	853-0644
<i>Emergency:</i>	853-4811
Pleasant Point Housing	853-6021
Domestic Violence-Peaceful Relations	853-0644 ext. 555 or 274
<i>Emergency:</i>	853-2613
Victim Advocate	853-2600 ext. 280
Police Department	853-2551
Social Services	853-2600 ext. 264 or 261

TRIBAL COURT SYSTEM

www.wabanaki.com/tribal_court.htm

Clerk of Courts	853-2600 ext. 252
Probation Officer	853-2600 ext. 249

INDIAN TOWNSHIP www.passamaquoddy.com

Administration	796-2301
Indian Township Clinic	796-2321
Indian Township Housing	796-8004
Indian Township Child Welfare	796-5079
Police Department	796-2704

TRIBAL COURT SYSTEM

www.wabanaki.com/tribal_court.htm

Clerk of Courts	796-2301 ext. 212
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STATEWIDE CRISIS SERVICES

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

DHHS Child Abuse	1-800-452-1999(24 hour) 1-800-963-9490(TTY)
DHHS Adult Abuse and Neglect	1-800 624-8404

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Maine Coalition to End DV	1-866-834-HELP(24 hour)
Houlton Band of Maliseets	
Domestic Violence Program	532-6401 or 694-1353 (24/7)
Penobscot Indian Nation	
Domestic Violence Program	817-7491
Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations	853-2613 or 853-0644 ext. 555 or 274
Pleasant Point Victim Advocate	853-2600 ext. 280
Spruce Run	1-800-863-9909
<i>Penobscot County</i>	
Battered Women's Project	1-800-439-2323
<i>Penobscot County</i>	
The Next Step	1-800-604-8692
<i>Washington County</i>	

RAPE CRISIS SERVICES

Rape Response Services	1-800-310-0000
<i>Penobscot County</i>	
Aroostook Mental Health Center	1-800-550-3304
<i>Crisis Line Aroostook County</i>	1-888-568-1112
Downeast Sexual Assault Svcs.	1-800-228-2470
<i>Washington County</i>	

OTHER SERVICES

Youth Crisis Stabilization	1-800-499-9130
Statewide Suicide Referral Line	1-800-568-1112
Poison Control Center	1-800-222-1212

2-1-1 MAINE & COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS

2-1-1 MAINE

www.211maine.org

2-1-1 Maine is part of a national movement to centralize and streamline access to health and human service information and resources. The state of Maine has thousands of programs offering all types of health and human services. 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember universal number and website for non-emergency help.

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS bring community resources together. Call your local program for information on heating assistance and other utility issues, subsidized housing and child care, and transportation services for disabled people.

Washington/Hancock CAP www.whcacap.org

Milbridge 546-7544

Ellsworth 664-2424

Penquis CAP www.penquis.org 1-800-215-4942

Aroostook County CAP www.acap-me.org

Presque Isle 764-3721

1-800-432-7881

Houlton 532-5311

Fort Kent 834-5135

Madawaska 728-6345

LEGAL SERVICES

PINE TREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

www.ptla.org

Pine Tree Legal represents low-income people with civil legal problems including:

- ♦ *Eviction from public housing.*
- ♦ *Home foreclosures*
- ♦ *Discrimination*
- ♦ *Domestic Violence*
- ♦ *Loss, reduction or denial of government benefits*
- ♦ *Problems with Medicare or Medicaid*
- ♦ *Special Education or Public Education*

Portland: 774-8211

Lewiston: 784-1558

Augusta: 622-4731

Bangor: 942-8241

Machias: 255-8656

Presque Isle: 764-4349

Native American Unit & Farm worker: 1-800-879-7463

VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT

www.vlp.org

1-800-442-4293

If you meet its eligibility requirements, the VLP can give you legal advice or informational materials for free. In some cases the VLP may provide a referral to a private attorney for free representation.

Intake hours are:

Monday and Tuesday - 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm

Wednesday and Friday - 9am to 12pm

Thursday - 1pm to 4pm

MAINE LAWYER REFERRAL AND INFORMATION SERVICE

www.mainebar.org

1-800-860-1460

For a \$25.00 fee, you can be referred to a lawyer in your area.

The first half-hour of consultation is free.

LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

www.maineelse.org

1-800-750-5353

If you are age 60 or older, LSE can give you free legal advice or limited representation.

PENQUIS LAW PROJECT

www.penquiscap.org

1-800-215-4942

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 have experienced or are experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.

DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

www.drme.org

1-800-452-1948

This group offers advice and legal representation to people with disabilities.

BANGOR COURT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

www.ptla.org/ptlasite/cliented/family/pclsa.htm 941-3040

Volunteers are available at the Bangor District Court once a month to help you fill out family law and small claims court forms, serve forms, calculate child support, and answer questions. For upcoming dates call Holly Jarvis at 941-3040.

OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES

WABANAKI MENTAL HEALTH ASSOC.

www.wabanaki.org

990-0605 or 1-800-434-3000

Wabanaki provides culturally-sensitive psychological and social services to the Native American populations of Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis and parts of Washington Counties.

MAINE INDIAN TRIBAL STATE COMMISSION

www.mitsc.org

394-2045

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

www.ssa.gov/reach.htm

Statewide 1-800-772-1213

Bangor Area 990-4530

941-8698 (TTY)

Presque Isle Area 764-3771

764-2925 (TTY)

MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

www.maine.gov/mhrc

624-6060

TTY

1-888-577-6690

MAINE CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

www.mclu.org

774-5444

MAINE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

www.maine.gov/ag

Consumer Scam Information and

Consumer Mediation Service 626-8849

MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

www.state.me.us/mpuc/consumer

Utility Service Complaints 1-800-452-4699

EMPLOYMENT/LABOR INFORMATION

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

To file unemployment claims online:

www.maine.gov/labor/unemployment

To file unemployment claims by telephone:

1-800-593-7660

Or go to your nearest Career Center:

www.mainecareercenter.com

Bangor 561-4050

Calais 454-7551

Houlton 532-5300

Machias 255-1900

Presque Isle 760-6300

STATE BUREAU OF LABOR STANDARDS

www.maine.gov/labor/labor_laws/wagehour.html

Wage and Hour, Child Labor

and Safety Complaints 624-6400