



**STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
POLICY DIRECTIVE**

Policy:	DOC 1.1.11 DEPARTMENT AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
Chapter 1:	ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
Section 1:	General Administration
Effective Date:	July 1, 2007 Page 1 of 2
Revised:	May 20, 2021
Signature:	/s/ Brian Gootkin

I. POLICY

The Department of Corrections recognizes the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians and is committed to maintaining the government-to-government relationship with the recognized tribal governments of Montana by inter-departmental communication, policy/procedure development and implementing programs for the greater good of the tribal members and all Montana citizens.

II. APPLICABILITY

All divisions, facilities, and programs

III. DEFINITIONS

Tribal Government – A state or federally-recognized Indian tribe within the State of Montana.

American Indian Liaison – The point of contact for American Indian offenders and their families who serves as the liaison between the Department and tribal councils.

IV. DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES

A. General Requirements

1. The Department will consider impacts on tribal members and tribal governments when developing policy, procedures, and Department programs.
2. The Department will make reasonable efforts to consult with tribal representatives to discuss issues and attempt to resolve tribal concerns when this can be accomplished without jeopardizing Department, public, and offender safety and security.
3. The Department’s American Indian liaison will serve as the technical and cultural authority to provide ongoing culturally competent consultation and guidance to Department staff and serve as the primary point of contact between the Department and tribal entities.
4. The Department will provide cultural training to Department staff on the unique nature of individual tribal governments, including knowledge of, and sensitivity to, issues of tribal culture, relations, and legal status.

5. Facility/Program administrators will keep the American Indian Liaison apprised of issues that involve tribal interests or require tribal/Department participation.

V. CLOSING

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to the Department's American Indian Liaison

VI. REFERENCES

- A. *18-11-101; 2-15-141; 2-15-142; 2-15-143; 53-30-302, MCA*
- C. *DOC Policies 1.1.3, Organization and Responsibility; 1.1.4, Department and Board of Pardons and Parole Coordination*

VII. ATTACHMENTS

None