

Governor Douglas A. Ducey

**Director Ted Vogt** 

## TRIBAL CONSULTATION POLICY

### PURPOSE

This policy establishes the basic principles governing the Arizona Department of Gaming's (ADG) relations with Tribal governments in the State of Arizona. It complies with Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) § 41-2051, which requires all executive branch agencies to develop and implement Tribal consultation policies to guide their work and interactions with Tribes existing within the boundaries of the State. The Tribes and State of Arizona share mutually beneficial interests in cooperative relationships, and ADG is committed to increasing affiliations and strengthening supportive interactions with Tribes.

## II. INTRODUCTION

ADG is the state agency charged with regulating tribal gaming, racing, pari-mutuel/simulcast wagering, and unarmed combat sports and its mission is: "To ethically and effectively regulate gaming, horseracing, and unarmed combat sports to ensure they are conducted in a socially responsible manner."

ADG works in partnership with Tribes on a daily basis to oversee Indian casinos. Further, ADG's Division of Problem Gambling (DPG) provides and supports prevention, education, and treatment programs, and a 24-hour confidential helpline (1-800-NEXT-STEP) for people and families affected by problem gambling. DPG's resources are available to Tribal members. ADG's Boxing & Mixed Martial Arts Division works with Tribes at their request to sanction unarmed combat sporting events on Tribal lands.

The State of Arizona has entered into gaming Compacts (Compacts) with all 22 federally recognized Tribal governments in Arizona, and these Compacts also are part of Arizona state law (A.R.S. § 5-601.02). Further, per the 2002 General Election Ballot Proposition 202 (Indian Gaming Preservation and Self-Reliance Act), 2 percent of the tribal gaming contributions made to the Arizona Benefits Fund finance state and local programs for the prevention and treatment of, and education concerning, problem gambling.

#### III. POLICY

ADG recognizes the sovereignty of Tribal governments and their jurisdiction over Tribal lands as defined by federal law. (The definition in federal law includes all lands within reservation boundaries [18 U.S.C.A § 1511].)

ADG recognizes that the federal government has the primary responsibility for assisting Tribes to regulate and manage the environment within Tribal lands and that it cannot extend authority over Indian Country writ large beyond the limited scope set forth by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, Arizona law, and the Compacts.

# IV. PROCEDURES

- A. ADG will enter into Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) or Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) when considered mutually appropriate by ADG and interested Tribal governments in consultation with the Governor's Office and Governor's Office on Tribal Relations.
- B. ADG will work cooperatively with Tribes for the mutual benefit of promoting socially responsible gaming and other appropriate matters.
- C. ADG will conduct training, as resources allow, and open its training programs to Tribal officials and Tribal staff, if and when appropriate. ADG will open and maintain channels of communication to Tribal officials and Tribal staff, whenever possible, similar to existing ADG channels of communication with state agencies and commissions.
- D. ADG will provide notification to Tribes concerning decisions that may directly affect them. ADG requests reciprocity by Tribes.
- E. ADG staff will relay Tribal communications about issues and concerns, including requests from Tribes for technical assistance, to the appropriate staff in a timely fashion.
- F. ADG will consult with all appropriate Governor's Office staff, including the Governor's Office on Tribal Relations, as appropriate, regarding its Tribal contacts.

## V. REPORTING

ADG will submit an annual summary report by September 30th each year to the Governor's Policy Advisor for Tribal Affairs. This report shall include a description of activities undertaken as a result of this Tribal Consultation Policy to include current areas in which ADG is actively partnering with Tribes in agreements, training and educational programs, and participation in commissions.

## VI. RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility for the enforcement of this policy lies with the ADG Director, ADG Leadership, and the Department's designated Tribal Liaison.

**APPROVED BY:** 

**Arizona Department of Gaming** 

Ted Vogt

Director

6 SEP 2019

Date