

# Tribal Remedies for Violations of Protection Orders

Presented by Honorable BJ Jones September 26, 2018



#### OVC's American Indian and Alaska Native Training and Technical Assistance Project



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# **2 PART SERIES**

#### Tribal Remedies for Violation of Order for Protection





# Honorable Judge BJ Jones

#### Director

University of North Dakota School of Law, Tribal Judicial Institute











*"If we are to fight* discrimination and *injustice* against women we must start from the home for if a woman cannot be safe in her own house then she cannot be expected to feel safe anywhere."

Aysha Taryam
 First female
 publisher of Middle
 Eastern newspaper





#### Tribal Remedies for Violation of Order for Protection

- Examine the authority of Tribal Courts to issue Domestic Violence Protection orders
- Examine how federal law, 18 USC §2265(e) has fortified tribal court authority in relation to Protection Orders
- Examine civil remedies available to tribal courts in enforcing civil Protection Orders
- Examine criminal enforcement of Domestic Violence Protection Orders, including against non-Indians
- Examine potential for felony sentencing of both Indian and non-Indian perpetrators of multiple Domestic Violence offenses









#### Inherent Authority to Issue Domestic Violence Protection Orders





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#### Victim Safety





- Preemptive First Step Accountability
- Restitution



#### Federal Law 18 USC §2265 (e)



(e)Tribal Court Jurisdiction. — For purposes of this section, a court of an Indian tribe shall have full civil jurisdiction to issue and enforce protection orders involving **any person**, including the authority to enforce any orders through civil contempt proceedings, to exclude violators from Indian land, and to use other appropriate mechanisms, in matters arising anywhere in the Indian country of the Indian tribe (as defined in section 1151) or otherwise within the authority of the Indian tribe.



#### Extraterritorial Jurisdiction of Indian Tribal Courts

 2265(e) - Indian tribal courts may issue protection orders against off-reservation persons if the conduct impacts on-reservation persons





### **Civil Remedies for Violations**

- Civil Contempt Penalties
- Expulsion or banishment
- Other appropriate mechanisms





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#### **Criminal Sanctions**



- Notice of the petition for a protection order has been received
- Defendant has the right to be heard and confront the petition
- Issuing court must have jurisdiction
- Defendant must have knowledge of the contents of the order being violated
- Violation must relate to the prohibition against contact or further domestic violence only









# Impact of Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) on Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction

Under 25 USC §1304(c) a Tribal Court may criminally prosecute:

- Occurs in Indian Country
- Violates a protection order
- Issued against the defendant
- Enforceable by the tribe
- Consistent with Section 2265(b) of Title 18



#### What is a Protection Order under this statute?

- Any injunction, restraining order, etc. issued for the purpose of preventing
  - violent or threatening acts
  - harassment
  - sexual violence
  - contact or communication
  - physical proximity
- Includes temporary or final orders
- Does not necessarily involve intimate partners



#### Exceptions

- Defendant and victim are both non-Indian
- Defendant lacks ties to the Indian tribe
- Tribe may exercise special jurisdiction over a defendant if:
  - Defendant resides in Indian county of the tribe
  - Defendant is employed in Indian country of the tribe
  - Defendant is a spouse, intimate partner, or dating partner of a member of the tribe
  - Defendant is an Indian who resides in Indian country of the tribe



#### What type of crime is this?

It depends
Misdemeanor; 1 year and \$5,000
Felony; 3 years and \$15,000 (one offense)
Felony; 9 years and \$15,000 (multiple offenses)
Felony option only exists if the offense is a felony under state and federal laws



#### Habitual domestic violence offenders

• 25 USC §1302(b)(1) permits felony punishment if:

- prior convictions under 25 USC §1302(b)(1)
- prior convictions for violation of protection order in any jurisdiction
- Bottom line: felony punishment permitted for habitual violators if the law clearly states this fact







# Honorable Judge BJ Jones

#### Director University of North Dakota School of Law, Tribal Judicial Institute





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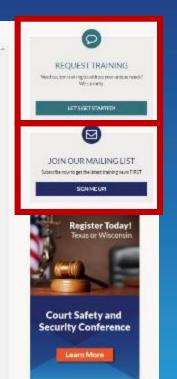




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