

RESOLUTION OF THE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe is informed and advised that some Indian Health Service personnel on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation are advising or encouraging Apache mothers or mothers-to-be, to relinquish their parental rights over their children; and

WHEREAS, the exercise of any influence by any person or persons in the decision of an Apache mother to retain or relinquish her parental rights, or custody, of her minor child, is deemed an act against the Tribe, when done outside of the confines of tribal law, tribal jurisdiction, and tribally authorized or approved social welfare programs dealing with such matters; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is concerned and responsible for the best health and welfare of all White Mountain Apaches, including the circumstances of any and all child placements, guardianships and adoptions; and

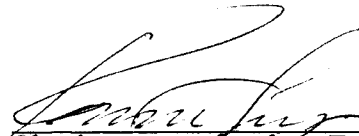
WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has recently enacted P.L. 95-608, the INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT of 1978, which recognized such tribal interests by providing for the exclusive jurisdiction of Indian Tribes over any child custody matter and thereby declaring that "it is the policy of this Nation to protect the best interests of Indian children and to promote the stability and security of Indian Tribes and families..."; and

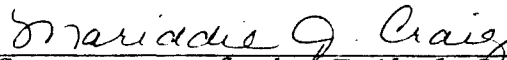
WHEREAS, the Tribal Council expects and demands that all Indian Health Service personnel on the Reservation support these interests and responsibilities of the Tribe, rather than defeat them.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby re-affirms its policies and laws that all actual or potential matters involving the parental rights over, or the placement, guardianship or adoption of White Mountain Apache children be referred to the proper tribal officials and agencies and that it directs that no action, advice or encouragement be undertaken by any person in contact with such child matters to deal with said matters outside of these policies and laws of the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tribal Chairman is hereby directed to give notice of the directives herein contained to any affected, interested or otherwise appropriate agencies on the Reservation.

The foregoing resolution was on March 13, 1979, duly adopted by a voted of eight for and zero against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article V, Section 1 (i) of the Amended Constitution and By-Laws of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe June 27, 1958, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 29, 1958, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934, (48 Stat. 984).


Chairman of the Tribal Council


Acting Secretary of the Tribal Council