

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

WHEREAS, the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council, in executive session, has heard the report from the White Mountain Apache Tribe Department of Social Services and the Legal Department concerning the adoption proceeding within the Navajo County Superior Court of Samantha April Nagle Cheney; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is aware of the facts surrounding Samantha Cheney's current placement within the foster home of Chuck and Mavis Ashcroft; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council understands that the best interests of the child is the highest concern for all governmental agencies in evaluating proposed adoptions of children who are either enrolled or eligible for enrollment within the White Mountain Apache Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council believes that all members of the White Mountain Apache Tribe and those persons eligible for membership, such as Samantha April Nagle Cheney, should never be denied the opportunity to affiliate with their relatives, community members, friends and culture present within the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; and

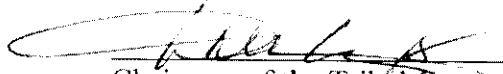
WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is aware that the subject child has relatives enrolled within the White Mountain Apache Tribe who live on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and who are interested in maintaining contact and visitation with the child; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council finds it appropriate for Samantha April Nagle Cheney and her relatives within the Fort Apache Indian Reservation to maintain contact and visitation with each other in the course of her life until such time as she is competent to make decisions for her life.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that, based upon the report it received from the White Mountain Apache Tribal Legal Department and the Department of Social Services, the Tribal Council hereby, in the best interests of Samantha April Nagle Cheney, a child eligible for enrollment with the White Mountain Apache Tribe, endorses Chuck and Mavis Ashcroft's proposed adoption of Samantha April Nagle Cheney on the condition that Samantha's relatives from the Fort Apache Indian Reservation are provided the opportunity to visit her at mutually convenient times and locations and that Chuck and Mavis Ashcroft commit to provide Samantha every opportunity to affiliate with her family, friends and culture within the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

Resolution No. 08-2002-228

The foregoing resolution was on August 21, 2002 duly adopted by a vote of FIVE for and ZERO against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article IV, Section 1 (a), (s), (t), and (u) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe September 30, 1993, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 12, 1993, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).


Chairman of the Tribal Council


Secretary of the Tribal Council