



**WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE**  
A Sovereign Tribal Nation

**(Implementing Temporary Restrictions on Funeral Arrangements and Services on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, Effective Immediately)**

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**WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the power, “To represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe, and to make decisions not inconsistent with or contrary to this constitution”; and

**WHEREAS**, Worldwide, novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) has, to date, infected more than 590,000 people, and caused almost 27,000 deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, Arizona is currently experiencing an exponential spike in cases as the federal government has been unable to control growth or provide adequate and timely testing of those exhibiting symptoms; and

**WHEREAS**, The most effective strategies for containment and mitigation of this pandemic are proving to be social distancing and quarantine; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter Two of the Tribe’s Health and Safety Code provides the Tribe with authority to institute measures to prevent the spread of infectious disease; and

**WHEREAS**, In light of the continued growth of COVID-19 worldwide, including within Navajo County, the Tribal Council has a compelling government interest to take additional measures to protect the health and safety of the public; and

**WHEREAS**, The Tribal Council now finds that temporarily prohibiting wakes and imposing limitations on viewings and burials, as a way to prevent congregation and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members and, in conjunction with other duly enacted measures, constitutes the least restrictive means by which the public can be protected from the transmission of COVID-19.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that in the interest of protecting the health and safety of all Tribal members the following temporary restrictions are hereby adopted, effective immediately:

***Resolution No. 03-2020-69***

1. Families may honor their loved ones with a private graveside viewing and graveside service, limited to ten people or less at the premises, at a time;
2. The graveside viewing and graveside service shall be limited to 1 hour;
3. All burials shall be prompt; and
4. For the duration of the above measures, all wakes are prohibited on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that when families lose a loved one and wish to bury them on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, those families shall be responsible for all costs of transporting the decedent's body back to the Reservation for prompt burial.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby encourages those who are ill and/or at-risk, such as elderly and immune-compromised persons, to stay home. Those who do attend graveside viewings are encouraged to maintain social distancing measures, practice hand hygiene, and cover coughs and sneezes. Families may also webcast or livestream graveside viewings and services so others can safely view from home.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that these restrictions shall remain in effect until such time that the Council acts to lift or modify it, or until lifted by the Tribe's Incident Commander.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairwoman, or in her absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on MARCH 27, 2020 duly adopted by a vote of TEN for, ZERO against, and ZERO abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

  
Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman      Date      3/27/2020

  
Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary      Date      3/27/2020