



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Amending Temporary Restrictions on Funeral Arrangements and Services on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation)

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

WHEREAS, The Tribe made an Emergency Declaration on March 12, 2020 in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, which activated the Tribe’s Emergency Operation Center (“EOC”); and

WHEREAS, On March 27, 2020, the Council enacted Resolution No. 03-2020-69 as a COVID-19 mitigation and prevention strategy; and

WHEREAS, To reflect the current conditions and trends on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”), the EOC, this day, recommends that the Council amend certain restrictions, including those on funeral arrangements and burial services, as provided in the draft Burial and Funeral Arrangement Policy (“Draft Policy”) (attached and incorporated herein); and

WHEREAS, The Council has reviewed the attached Draft Policy, and finds that its adoption and consequential amendment to the restrictions contained in Reso. No. 03-2020-69 are in the best interests of the Tribe and its members.

NOW THEREFORE 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, it hereby approves updating the Temporary Restriction on Funeral Arrangements and Services on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, as attached hereto, and as supersedes inconsistent provisions of Reso. No. 03-2020-69.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

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.

Resolution No. 09-2020-215

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 **SEPTEMBER 3, 2020** duly adopted by a vote of **NINE** for, **ONE** 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	Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary	Date

White Mountain Apache Tribe
Public Health Emergency Preparedness
Emergency Operations Center

Pandemic Response

Policy Title: Temporary Restrictions on Funeral Arrangements and Services

Policy Date: 08/31/2020

POLICY STATEMENT

- The White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) made an Emergency Declaration on March 12, 2020 in response to the worldwide Coronavirus 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic. This declaration activated the Emergency Operations Center (“EOC”) whose main priorities are the mitigation and prevention of COVID-19 on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

The Tribe recognizes the sensitive and somber time death brings to families. This is further complicated by the pandemic which has disrupted the grieving process for families across the Reservation. Families may honor their loved ones with a private graveside viewing and graveside service.

Policy Guidelines

1. All graveside viewings and graveside services shall not last longer than 4 hours. This time may be allocated, as follows:
 - 1-hour viewing;
 - 1-hour service;
 - 1-hour filling; and
 - 1-hour decorating of graveside.
2. Viewing and services are limited to 50 guests.
3. Non-member, non-residents are not allowed to attend graveside viewings and services, except for immediate family members.
4. Organizers and guests must wear facemasks and practice social distancing at all times during the graveside viewing and service.
5. Organizers and guests must physically distance themselves from other non-household members.

6. Children must be accompanied at all times.
7. Individuals who are ill with COVID-19 symptoms shall not be permitted to attend the public service.

Organizers must:

1. Provide access to a hand washing station or hand sanitizer for all guests;
2. Provide tissue for coughs and sneezes;
3. Set up garbage containers and dispose of these containers after service; and
4. Ensure all tribal guidelines and restrictions are observed.