

How do I get help from the Native American Unit?

If you are located outside of King County, call the CLEAR hotline toll-free at 1-888-201-1014. The CLEAR line is open weekdays from 9:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

If you are located in King County, call 2-1-1. 2-1-1 phone hours are weekdays from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

After you contact 2-1-1 or CLEAR for a NAU intake, you may receive further assistance from the Native American Unit or you may be referred to an NJP field office, a local volunteer lawyer program, or another legal services organization.

When you speak to a NAU advocate, she will help you define the legal problem, determine possible courses of action, and identify whether additional legal resources are available.

*Native victims of crime seeking assistance from our Native American Crime Victims Program should ask a tribal service provider or staff member of an organization that serves Native Americans for a referral.



Northwest Justice Project

Free Legal Services for Native Americans



Serving the Legal Needs of Washington State's Native American & Alaska Native Communities

Northwest Justice Project General Contact Information

Call to apply for legal services.

For all counties except King County, call CLEAR at

1-888-201-1014,

M-F 9:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

In King County, call 2-1-1

M-F 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

NJP General Information Line:

1-888-201-1012

Free legal information and self-help publications are available at www.washingtonlawhelp.org

www.nwjustice.org

Executive Director

César Torres



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LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

What Is Northwest Justice Project?

The Northwest Justice Project (NJP) is a non-profit law firm providing civil (non-criminal) legal services to low income persons throughout the state. NJP has 21 field offices across the state that serve client communities.

What does NJP do for Native Americans?

NJP has several resources to help low-income Native American clients, including the following:

The Native American Unit (NAU)

The NAU offers legal assistance in tribal, federal, and state courts. Case acceptance is dependent upon office priorities, staff availability, and the merits of each case. The NAU emphasizes:

- cases involving state agencies' policies and practices that have had disproportionate, harmful impacts on Native communities;
- cases that strengthen tribal sovereignty and self-governance.

The NAU provides advice and representation to Native Americans in the following areas of law:

Education & Youth Law: cases involving suspensions, expulsions, truancy, accommodations, or special education in public schools.

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA): cases involving an Indian child removed from a parent or guardian. These include, but are not limited to, non-parental custody cases, dependencies, and adoptions in state courts.

Indian Trust Land and Resources: when individuals have problems or questions involving their trust property, including home ownership, land use, leases, or purchase and gift deed transactions.

Estate Planning and Probate: probate cases before the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Housing: cases to preserve homeownership on Indian trust land, such as termination of purchase agreements or right to possession of a home.

Other issues: advice and representation in other cases arising from a person's legal status as an American Indian or Alaska Native, including matters before tribal courts, or about protection of the jurisdiction of tribal justice systems.

The Native American Unit - Crime Victims (NAU-CV) Program

NJP has dedicated services for Native American crime victims. NAU-CV is available to provide advice, brief services, and referrals in civil (non-criminal) legal matters stemming from the client's experience as a crime victim. The crime does not need to be reported or prosecuted. Matters include:

- Family law matters involving domestic violence or sexual assault;
- Health matters including denial of services to deal with victimization;
- Housing problems due to a crime in the house;
- Financial security issues caused by an assault, abuse, or fraud;
- Employment issues such as sexual harassment or wage theft; and
- Other legal problems resulting from being the victim of a crime.

Ask a tribal service provider or staff member of a Native American-serving organization for a referral to NAU-CV.



Free Legal Services for Low Income Native Americans and Alaska Natives

Do you have a civil (non-criminal) legal problem?

The **Native American Unit (NAU)** at **Northwest Justice Project (NJP)** provides free **civil** legal services to eligible Native Americans and Alaska Natives who cannot afford a lawyer in Washington. The NAU emphasizes cases involving state agencies' policies and practices that have had disproportionate, adverse impacts on Native communities. The NAU also has dedicated resources for legal matters that stem from being a victim of crime.

The NAU can work with you on:

- **Protecting Indian monies** (per capita, settlement, and other tribal income) from garnishment and/or impacting other income and benefits;
- **Trust land rights** – leasing, rights of way, homeownership, and purchase/sale agreements;
- **Child welfare** and nonparental custody matters in state courts involving a Native child;
- **Education** – suspensions, expulsions, special education, truancy, foster and homeless student issues;
- **Civil matters relating to a client's experience as a crime victim**, such as an eviction due to a domestic violence incident, protection orders for vulnerable adults, bullying at school, or sexual harassment in the workplace;
- **Estate planning and probate** issues before the BIA; and
- **Other issues** arising directly from a person's legal status as an American Indian or Alaska Native.

To find out if we can help you, please call.

Residents of King County can call Janel Riley at 206-707-0920. Residents of all other counties can call NJP's CLEAR hotline at 1-888-201-1014, Monday through Friday between 9:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

What is Northwest Justice Project?

The Northwest Justice Project (NJP) is a statewide non-profit organization with 21 offices in Washington State that provides free civil legal services to low-income people. NJP's mission is to secure justice through high quality legal advocacy that promotes the long-term well-being of low-income individuals, families, and communities.

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