



MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE

Executive Branch of Tribal Government

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 179-18

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER CONVENING AN EXECUTIVE INQUIRY AND APPOINTING HEARING OFFICERS ON CHILD PLACEMENT MATTERS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Mille Lacs Band Statute 4 MLBA 6 (e) the Chief Executive is authorized to issue Executive Orders on any subject matter within the Executive Branch pursuant to the authorities conferred by Band Statute; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Executive is authorized to hold Executive Hearings pursuant to Band Statute 4 MLSBA 12; and

WHEREAS, the effectiveness, responsiveness, and integrity of the Department of Human Services, and specifically the Family Services office regarding guardianship and the placement of children is of great importance to the people of the Mille Lacs Band; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility of the attorneys for the Band in the Office of the Solicitor General to uphold the law and Band Legal Aid to provide legal counsel to the people of the Band is of utmost importance to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility of the Mille Lacs Band Court of Central Jurisdiction is to dispense fairly and apply correctly the law in child placements; and

WHEREAS, recent events have raised concerns among many persons and elected leaders of the Mille Lacs Band regarding the conduct and oversight of the placement of children; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Executive has determined that, in order to proceed in a prudent manner, it is proper and necessary to conduct hearings into the current child placement system and the appointment of guardians and to develop recommendations for policies, procedures and further steps for improving the operations and oversight of the placement of children; and

WHEREAS, 4 MLSBA, Section 12 contemplates that powers of subpoena shall be available to any executive hearing of inquiry; and

WHEREAS, the procedures for conduct of hearings of inquiry are set forth in 4 MLSBA 13 ("Section 13"); and

DISTRICT I

43408 Oudena Drive • Onamia, MN 56359
(320) 532-4181 • Fax (320) 532-4209

DISTRICT II

36666 State Highway 65 • McGregor, MN 55760
(218) 768-3311 • Fax (218) 768-3903

DISTRICT IIA

2605 Chumming Drive • Isle, MN 56342
(320) 676-1102 • Fax (320) 676 3432

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DISTRICT III

45749 Grace Lake Road • Sandstone, MN 55072

URBAN OFFICE

1404 E. Franklin Avenue • Minneapolis, MN 55404

WHEREAS, 4 MLSBA, Section 12 contemplates that powers of subpoena shall be available to any executive hearing of inquiry; and

WHEREAS, the procedures for conduct of hearings of inquiry are set forth in 4 MLSBA 13 ("Section 13"); and

WHEREAS, Section 13(a) provides for executive hearings to be conducted by a Hearing Officer appointed by the Chief Executive; and

WHEREAS, the Mille Lacs Band has retained the Jacobson Law Group, 180 5th St. E. #940, St. Paul, MN to conduct the Executive Inquiry Hearing; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of that assignment, the Chief Executive has determined that the Jacobson Law Group and its attorneys, Susan Allen and Joe Halloran, shall serve as a hearing officer pursuant to Section 13(a);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED:

1. The Jacobson Law Group and its attorneys Susan Allen and Joe Halloran are appointed as a hearing officer pursuant to 4 MLSBA 13 for the purpose of investigating the Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services Department, and related institutions on the matters of child placements and the appointment of guardians;

2. The hearing officer is hereby granted subpoena power to gather information and command the attendance and testimony of individuals in connection with its investigation and hearings contemplated by Sections 12 and 13; and

3. The Jacobson Law Group shall conduct any hearings in this matter consistent with the guidelines and principles set forth in the Band Statutes, including particularly 4 MLSBA 12, 13, and 14.

Dated: This 5th Day of June, 2018



Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive

Expiration Date: September 30, 2018

