



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

Executive Council of the Central Council
TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

Resolution EC 25-65

Title: Encourage the Importance of Wills Among Tribal Citizens

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 38,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, under Article X of the Tlingit & Haida Constitution, the Executive Council is the governing body of Tlingit & Haida when the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, sixty-seven percent of American citizens die without a will according to a recent survey by Caring.com, and, although not part of the survey, it is expected the percentage will be higher among tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, each state has intestate laws that may not reflect the deceased's wishes; and

WHEREAS, these laws guide the division of property without considering the advice of the executor, may exclude non-blood relatives, such as stepchildren or life partners, and if the state cannot contact relatives, the estate may go to the state; and

WHEREAS, if the deceased is an heir to or has property held in trust by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, dying without a will further complicates property succession and may result in numerous beneficiaries, making management decisions impossible; and

WHEREAS, Sealaska, Southeast Alaska Native Village Corporations, and Southeast Tribes would benefit from a shared campaign to promote tribal citizen wills, which could be supported through the existing Alaska Tribal Unity partnership;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska hereby promotes the importance of will preparation among tribal citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida will work with Community Councils, Southeast Alaska Tribes, Native Corporations, and organizations to partner in this educational campaign.

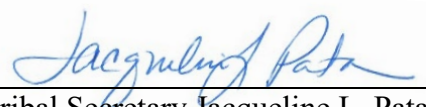
ADOPTED this 16th day of May 2025, by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 0 absences.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata