



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building
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CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Eighty-Eighth Annual Tribal Assembly
April 19-21, 2023
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 23-19

Title: State of Alaska Birth Certificate Access

By: Seattle Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 35,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, Title 15-Enrollment of the Tlingit & Haida statutes 15.01.007(H) - Relinquishment enshrines the birthright of all children of Tlingit & Haida descent to be enrolled; and

WHEREAS, Title 15-Enrollment of the Tlingit & Haida statutes 15.01.003(D)(4) - Application for Enrollment requires documentary evidence that forms the basis for the claim for enrollment; and

WHEREAS, in certain instances, an applicant may require birth certificates of parents, grandparents, etc. in order to establish lineal descent to an enrolled tribal citizen in order to provide the documentary evidence that forms the basis for the claim for enrollment;

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska pursuant to AS 18.50.310(f) - Disclosure of Records currently limits access to birth certificates of individuals until 100 years have elapsed since issuance or 50 years after an individual's death, where upon those records become public record; and

WHEREAS, if an individual's parents, grandparents, etc. are deceased before the aforementioned periods of time it can create an unreasonable barrier to accessing a birth certificate necessary to establish documentary evidence for the claim for enrollment; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska pursuant to AS 18.50.310(f) - Disclosure of Records and AS 40.25.120 - Public Records; Exceptions; Certified Copies provides exceptions to provide access to vital statistic records, but no exceptions to assist tribal governments with enrollment proceedings; and

WHEREAS, several states such as Washington, Idaho, Oklahoma, and South Dakota allow access to birth certificates to next of kin, immediate family, designated agents, genealogists, and other individuals for legal reasons, such as enrollment applications, to ease the burden for applicants in those states;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Eighth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened April 19-21, 2023, hereby supports Tlingit & Haida's consultation with the State of Alaska to identify administrative barriers and possible legislative recommendations to increase the accessibility for tribal citizens to access birth certificate documentation for the purposes of Tribal enrollment.

ADOPTED this 19th day of April, 2023, by the Eighty-Eighth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata