

**TRIBAL COURT PETITION
NANTICOKE LENNI-LENAPE TRIBAL NATION**

GENERAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING A PETITION

1. Persons eligible to file a petition (complaint):
 - a. A citizen or dependent of the Nation, as defined in the laws of the Nation.
 - b. An official or entity of the government or an arm of the Nation, acting in an official capacity*
 - c. A person or organization party to an agreement (contract, compact, covenant, treaty or other instrument) which is subject to the laws of the Nation.

** It should be noted that government officials or entities may request an advisory opinion or ruling on a point of law, that does not involve a complaint against a Respondent, without needing to file a petition; if acting in their official capacity, they can make a request in letter form.*

2. The process of petitioning the court is intended to allow for all participants to represent themselves. If representative legal counsel is engaged by either the Petitioner (Plaintiff) or Respondent (Defendant) to act on their behalf, such counsel must have the prior approval of the Nation to participate in the court proceedings of the Nation. Counsel must apply to the Court in letter form, which – in addition to citing the name of party they represent- shall include: name; address; telephone number; email address; affiliations; and, credentials of counsel. Approval of counsel is at the sole discretion of the Court, which will provide additional requirements to counsel, if necessary.
3. Enter your full name on the line under the word **Petitioner**. Enter the Respondent’s full name on the line under the word **Respondent**. Please enter the corresponding mailing addresses and other contact information, including email addresses and fax numbers (if available).
4. Mark the boxes that identify the status of the Petitioner and Respondent. If required, include tribal citizenship identification numbers.
5. State the nature of the grievance as clearly as possible. Any issue brought to the court must involve a case or controversy arising out of an alleged violation of the Constitution, law, duly adopted policy, procedure, rule, or regulation of the Nation, or breach of an agreement subject to the same. Additional pages and/or attachments or exhibits may be added, but should be clearly marked and explained. While typewritten submissions are preferred, printed submissions are accepted so long as both the original and copies are legible.
 - a. The following fees for filing a petition** must be paid by either certified check or money order and must be made out to **“Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Government Affairs”**:
 - A citizen of the Nation - \$25.00***
 - A dependent of the Nation - \$25.00***
 - An Official or Entity of the Government or Arm of the Nation in their Official Capacity - \$0.00
 - A person or entity that is party to an agreement subject to the laws of the Nation - \$50.00

*** This fee is for the filing of the petition only, and does not include any potential court costs or fees for approval of counsel.*

****In the event of financial hardship, Petitioners can request to have the petition filing fee waived or reduced with a letter, included with their petition, explaining their need.*

b. Mail the **original and two copies****** of the petition and/or letter seeking approval for legal counsel with any required fee to:

**Tribal Court
Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Tribal Nation
18 E Commerce Street
Bridgeton, New Jersey 08302**

***** Be sure to keep an additional copy for your own records.*

- c. The petition will be stamped with the date upon which it is received.
6. Upon receipt of the petition, at the sole discretion of the Court, there will be an initial review by the Court to determine if the petition will be accepted and given a case number for further processing. If accepted, the received Petitioner's filing with instructions for responding will be mailed by the Court to the Respondent by certified mail or other verified receipt of delivery. While the Court will endeavor to respond in a timely manner, the processing of the initial petition may take thirty (30) or more. Upon receipt of the Petitioner's filing the Respondent has up to thirty (30) days from the date of service to answer the Petition, unless otherwise indicated by the Court by writing. Service will be deemed the date of receipt by certified mail or verified receipt of delivery. The answer must be sent to the Petitioner and the Tribal Court by certified mail or other verified receipt of delivery. Failure to respond in a timely fashion may result in a summary judgement by the Court.
7. The Tribal Court will review the petition, response, and additional information to determine whether the case will be heard in court, assigned to arbitration/mediation, or dismissed. The Petitioner and Respondent will be notified of the Court's determination by mail or electronic means. If the Court decides to hear the case, the Petitioner and Respondent will be notified of the date, time, manner, and location of the hearing.
8. Please note that both the Petitioner and Respondent may choose to waive his or her right to appear before the Court in the manner determined for the hearing (either in person or through electronic means). If the Petitioner decides to waive this right, he or she should complete the attached Waiver and submit it with the Petition. The Court's decision will then be made on the written information provided. Both the Petitioner and Respondent will be given time to submit any additional evidence. **IF A WAIVER IS NOT COMPLETED THE PETITIONER AND RESPONDENT WILL BE EXPECTED TO APPEAR FOR THE HEARING WHEN SCHEDULED. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN EITHER A DISMISSAL OR A RULING BASED SOLELY ON THE WRITTEN STATEMENTS.**

****An original and two (2)
copies are required***

**PETITION FOR HEARING BEFORE
THE TRIBAL COURT
OF THE NANTICOKE LENNI-LENAPE TRIBAL NATION**

Office Use Only Received: _____ Case #: _____
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Petitioner	Vs.	Respondent
_____		_____
Name		Name
_____		_____
Street Address / Apt. #		Street Address / Apt. #
_____		_____
City / State / Zip		City / State / Zip
_____		_____
Phone No.		Phone No.
_____		_____
Email		Email

PETITION

COMES NOW, _____ (Petitioner), who resides/is located at the address indicated above, and files this Petition against _____ (Respondent), who resides/is located at the address indicated above.

The Petitioner is a citizen of the Nation (Tribal ID# _____)
 a dependent of the Nation (Related Tribal Citizen's Name & Tribal ID# _____)
 an official or entity of the government or arm of the Nation acting in an official capacity
 a party to an agreement subject to the laws of the Nation

The Respondent is a citizen of the Nation (Tribal ID# _____)
 a dependent of the Nation (Related Tribal Citizen's Name & Tribal ID# _____)
 a party to an agreement subject to the laws of the Nation
 Other: _____

STATE THE NATURE OF THE GREIVANCE WHICH IS THE REASON FOR THIS PETITION *(You may attach additional statements on a separate sheet of paper, if necessary.)*

STATE THE RELIEF BEING SOUGHT *(You may attach additional statements on a separate sheet of paper, if necessary.)*

Petitioner's Signature

Date

***An original and two (2)
copies are required**

**THE TRIBAL COURT
OF THE NANTICOKE LENNI-LENAPE TRIBAL NATION
WAIVER OF YOUR RIGHT OF PERSONAL APPEARANCE**

Office Use Only Received: _____ Case #: _____
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Petitioner Name: _____

Petitioner Address: _____
Street **Apt.**

City **State** **Zip**

Telephone Number (with area code): _____

Email Address: _____

I have been advised of my right to appear before the Court. I understand that my personal appearance, or real-time participation through electronic means, would provide me with the opportunity to present written evidence, my testimony, and the testimony of other witnesses. I understand that this opportunity to be heard could be helpful to the Court in making a decision.

Although I understand my right to appear before the Court, I waive this right. I choose to have my case decided on the written evidence. I understand that if I do not appear before the Court, I still have the right to present a written summary of my case or to enter written statements about the facts into the record.

Signature of Petitioner

Date