

IDA L. TRASCHEN  
First Assistant Counsel  
Legal Bureau



## Department of Motor Vehicles

PT. 44 JUL 24 2015

6 EMPIRE STATE PLAZA • ALBANY, NY 12228

July 21, 2015

The Honorable Marcy L. Kahn  
Unified Court System  
100 Centre Street, Room 1730  
New York, New York 10013

Re: Recognition of Tribal Court Orders

Dear Judge Kahn:

Deputy Commissioner Timothy Lennon requested that I respond to your letter of June 15, 2015, regarding Indian tribal court orders, decrees and judgments.

The Department of Motor Vehicles will honor tribal orders, decrees and judgments, and anticipates a uniform practice across all Department of Motor Vehicle issuing offices and county offices that conduct business as agents of the Department. Accordingly, we have issued the attached directive.

We trust that this directive will bring uniformity to our practices and address concerns raised by the Unified Court System's Tribal Courts Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ida L. Traschen".

Ida L. Traschen  
First Assistant Counsel

[www.dmv.ny.gov](http://www.dmv.ny.gov)

July 21, 2015

Mailbag 28, 2015

### **RECOGNITION OF TRIBAL COURT ORDERS, DECREES AND JUDGMENTS**

Effective immediately, all issuing offices must recognize orders, decrees and judgments issued by Indian tribal courts. Examples include orders related to divorces, name changes, and Letters of Administration issued by a tribal Surrogate's Court.

You should honor all orders, decrees and judgments issued by the following New York State tribes: Cayuga Nation, Oneida Nation of New York, Onondaga Nation of New York, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Seneca Nation of Indians, Tonawanda Band of Seneca, Tuscarora Nation, Shinnecock Indian Nation and Unkechaug Nation. In addition, you should also honor orders, decrees and judgments issued by tribes from non-NY states recognized by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs. A list of recognized tribes can be found at the [Bureau of Indian Affairs](#). If you have any questions regarding the authenticity of a document when it is presented, please contact the IOCU for assistance.

Please share this information with all appropriate staff. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the IOCU at (518) 473-2322. County offices may call 1-800-662-4628.