



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

FEB 24 2016

Dear Tribal Leader:

Children are the most precious resource that Tribal Nations have upon which to strengthen their future. The Bureau of Indian Affairs' Model Indian Juvenile Code¹ (Code) is being updated to reflect reforms in juvenile justice. As part of the Department of the Interior's *Tiwahe* Initiative, we have been working to incorporate those reforms and make the Model Indian Juvenile Code a more useful tool for Indian Tribes creating or revising their own juvenile codes. Tribes know best what will work in their communities. This updated draft to the Model Indian Juvenile Code is envisioned as a foundation upon which Tribes may strengthen their juvenile justice systems. It is not intended as a "model"; but as a sample. Among the juvenile justice reforms the draft embodies are many of the elements highlighted in Chapter 4 of the Report by the Attorney General's Advisory Committee on American Indian/Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence, to focus on prevention, treatment, and healing.

Last year, we distributed a discussion draft to the Code (25 U.S.C. 2454) and held several information-gathering sessions on the draft. We have incorporated Tribal feedback on the initial draft and now request your input on the revised draft of the Model Indian Juvenile Code. The revised draft Model Indian Juvenile Code is available at <http://www.bia.gov/cs/groups/xojs/documents/document/idc1-033097.pdf>.

We will be hosting the following sessions to gather information and input on the proposed update of the Model Indian Juvenile Code:

Listening Session

Date	Time	Location	Venue
Monday April 4, 2016	3:30 – 5:30 p.m. CST	St. Paul, MN	National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) Conference

Telephonic Consultation Sessions

Date	Time	Call-in Number	Passcode
Saturday March 30, 2016	3:30 – 5:30 p.m. EST	800-857-5008	1291169
Sunday March 31, 2016	3:30 – 5:30 p.m. EST	800-857-5008	1291169
Wednesday April 13, 2016	3:30 – 5:30 p.m. EST	800-857-5008	1291169
Thursday April 14, 2016	3:30 – 5:30 p.m. EST	800-857-5008	1291169

¹ 25 U.S.C. 2454

If you prefer to comment in writing, please submit your written comments by midnight ET on May 27, 2016, by email to bia_tribal_courts@bia.gov, or by mail to Natasha Anderson, Deputy Associate Director, Tribal Justice Support Directorate, Office of Justice Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 2603, Washington, DC 20240.

We look forward to your input. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Ms. Anderson at (202) 513-0367.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence Roberts", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lawrence Roberts
Acting Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs