

****REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS****

To: Bois Forte Tribal Members
Bois Forte Tribal Government Departments
From: Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council

Re: Seeking Comments on Elder Justice Revisions to the Tribal Code

Date: October 4, 2024



To submit comment(s)

The RTC is currently seeking comments from Bois Forte members and Bois Forte Tribal Government Departments and employees on draft revisions to the Bois Forte Tribal Code (“Code Revisions”). Because the revisions are extensive, the draft Chapter 15 Code Revisions are attached in a clean version incorporating all revisions to date for your convenient review. **Please submit any comments or requests to view additional formats to Executive Assistant, Bois Forte Tribal Government, via email (executiveassistant@boisforte-nsn.gov) or mail at 5344 Lakeshore Drive, Nett Lake, MN 55772. All comments are to be received no later than December 3, 2024.**



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Summary of Code Revisions

These Code Revisions amend Chapter 15, the Tribal Elder and Vulnerable Adult Protection Code (“Elder Justice Code”), and the criminal offenses against an Elder or Vulnerable Adult.

The Tribal Elder and Vulnerable Adult Civil Protection Code has been developed to:

- 1) ensure Band officials and loved ones are equipped with the tools they need to combat the abuse of elders and vulnerable adults;
- 2) add and expand what constitutes “abuse,” “neglect,” and “financial exploitation”;
- 3) broaden the definitions of a caretaker–“stands in a position of trust”;
- 4) expand the crime of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of an Elder or Vulnerable adult as committed by any “person” instead of only by a “caretaker”;
- 5) beef up and provide specific inter-agency procedures for reporting, response, and investigation of suspected Elder Abuse crimes (Sections 1502.01–04);
- 6) specify the procedures the Band may use to petition for Protective Services or Protective Placement;
- 7) provide for Elder and Vulnerable Adult Civil Protection Orders (Part 3); and notably,
- 8) provide for Guardianship of an Elder or Vulnerable Adult, which establishes a new process where a person may, upon the Court’s appointment, make health and/or financial decisions on behalf of an elder or vulnerable adult who cannot make those decisions on their own (Part 4).

The RTC welcomes and appreciates your comments and feedback as it finalizes these Code Revisions that reflect an important exercise of the Band’s tribal sovereignty.