

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

**To:** Bois Forte Tribal Members  
Bois Forte Tribal Government Departments

**From:** Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council

**Re:** Seeking Comments on VAWA '22 and Human  
Trafficking 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”). The draft Code Revisions are attached in both redline and clean versions for your convenient review. **Please submit any comments or requests to view additional formats to Executive Assistant, Bois Forte Tribal Government, via email ([executiveassistant@boisfortensn.gov](mailto:executiveassistant@boisfortensn.gov)) or mail at 5344 Lakeshore Drive, Nett Lake, MN 55772. All comments are to be received no later than December 3, 2024.**

Summary of Code Revisions

These Code Revisions amend the Band’s Tribal Code to define and implement the Band’s Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction (“STCJ”), as authorized by the updated, federal Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA 22”). As it stands, the Band can prosecute non-Indians with “sufficient ties” to the Band for committing acts of domestic and dating violence against Native victims within the Band’s territories. The revisions expand the Band’s authority to prosecute non-Indian offenders. More specifically:



To View Files

1. In addition to domestic and dating violence, the Band may prosecute non-Indians for acts of child violence, sexual violence, sex trafficking, stalking, assault of Band officials, and obstruction of justice.
2. The revisions strike provisions that frustrate the Band’s ability to prosecute non-Indians. A defendant no longer needs to have “sufficient ties” to the Band. Additionally, the Band’s Code (instead of federal law) defines the crimes that the Band may prosecute.
3. The revisions narrow the definition of Prostitution to criminalize only the direct transaction between two individuals over the age of 18, and broaden the definition of Sex Trafficking to capture everything previously defined as Prostitution and Promoting Prostitution.

The revisions also include a variety of technical amendments:

1. The provisions that authorize STCJ are now under Chapter 5, which establishes the scope of the Band’s jurisdiction, instead of the Chapter 12 (Domestic Violence).
2. All cross-references throughout the Tribal Code have been updated.

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.