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LAWS
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**TITLE 21
LAWS**

**CHAPTER ONE
FORM OF LAWS**

Section 101. Definitions.

(a) A "motion" is a verbal statement by a member of the General Council by which such member submits a proposed measure for consideration and action by the General Council.

(b) A "resolution" is the formal expression of the opinion or will of the General Council relating to some specific matter or thing, adopted by vote following a duly seconded motion to approve such resolution.

(c) An "ordinance" is the written law of the Seminole Nation intended to permanently direct and control matters applying to persons or things in general, adopted by vote of the General Council following a duly seconded motion to approve such ordinance. The term "ordinance" may be used interchangeably with the word "law" or "statute."

[HISTORY: Ordinance No. 70-1; repealed by Ordinance 91-03,
April 13, 1991; replaced by Ordinance No. 91-09, August 29,
1991; Codified by Law No. 91-12, November 16, 1991.]

Section 102. Presentation, Debate, and Approval of Ordinances and Resolutions.

Ordinances and resolutions may be presented to the General Council of the Seminole Nation at any regular or special meeting. Ordinances and resolutions shall be placed on the floor for debate and roll call vote by proper motion seconded by members of the General Council. Debate may then be had, followed by roll call vote. Unless provided otherwise by the Constitution, all ordinances and resolutions shall be deemed to have been enacted by the General Council upon a majority vote of those Council members present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum of fifteen members is present. All verbal ordinances and resolutions passed shall be documented not only in the minutes of the General Council, but shall be also be documented in the form of separate ordinance and resolution documents prepared by the Attorney General and assigned appropriate ordinance and resolution numbers consistent with the provisions of this act, and shall be separately executed by the Chief and attested by the Secretary of the General Council.

(a) In the absence of an Attorney General, the General Council and/or the Principal Chief shall authorize and designate the General Council Secretary to draft in proper form ordinances and resolutions for presentation to the General Council.

[HISTORY: Ordinance No. 70-1; repealed by Ordinance 91-03,
April 13, 1991; replaced by Ordinance No. 91-09, August 29,
1991; Codified by Law No. 91-12, November 16, 1991 Amended
by Law No.93-06, January 23, 1993 Amended by Law No. 98-03,

December 5, 1998.]

Section 103. Form of Ordinances and Resolutions.

All ordinances presented to the General Council of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma shall be in writing, provided that the General Council may pass a verbal ordinance if the Council adopts a motion that an emergency exists, requiring adoption of a verbal ordinance. All ordinances and resolutions presented shall be substantially in the following form:

(a) Number.

Each ordinance and resolution, upon enactment and approval as herein set forth, shall bear at the top the words, "Ordinance No." or "Resolution No.", followed by the correct number assigned to said Ordinance or Resolution. All ordinances and resolutions which are enacted and approved shall be numbered first with the last two digits of the year in which the ordinance or resolution is adopted. Immediately following the year digits shall be a dash. The first ordinance passed in a given year shall be assigned the number "one" immediately after the dash. Each successive ordinance adopted during the year shall be assigned a consecutive ascending number. The first resolution passed in a given year shall be assigned the number "one" immediately after the dash. Each successive resolution adopted during the year shall be assigned a consecutive ascending number.

(b) Title.

Following the ordinance or resolution number shall be the title of the ordinance or resolution, which title shall set forth the purpose and content of the ordinance or resolution.

(c) Ordinance Enacting Clause and Text.

Following the title of each ordinance shall appear the enacting clause, in the following words, "Be it enacted by the General Council of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma:". The text of the ordinance shall then follow, in appropriately designated sections where need be.

(d) Resolution Enacting Clause and Text.

Following the title of each resolution shall appear the following words: "Be it resolved by the General Council of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma." The findings related to said resolution shall then immediately follow, followed in turn by the text of the action resolved by the General Council.

(e) Approval Information.

Ordinances and resolutions which are enacted by the General Council shall reflect the date of passage, the number of votes for and against the ordinance, the number of council members constituting a quorum, together with a statement that the ordinance or resolution was

passed by the General Council of the Seminole Nation, and the place where the General Council was sitting at the time of passage.

[HISTORY: Ordinance No. 70-1; repealed by Ordinance 91-03, April 13, 1991; replaced by Ordinance No. 91-09, August 29, 1991; Codified by Law No. 91-12, November 16, 1991.]

Section 104. Execution and Attestation.

All ordinances and resolutions shall be finalized, executed, and attested in accordance with these provisions not later than ten (10) days following their enactment by the General Council.

[HISTORY: Ordinance No. 70-1; repealed by Ordinance 91-03, April 13, 1991; replaced by Ordinance No. 91-09, August 29, 1991; Codified by Law No. 91-12, November 16, 1991.]

Section 105. Codification of Ordinances.

All ordinances shall be codified in accordance with the official codification system of the Seminole Nation, and shall appear in codified form in the official Code of Laws of the Seminole Nation.

[HISTORY: Ordinance No. 70-1; repealed by Ordinance 91-03, April 13, 1991; replaced by Ordinance No. 91-09, August 29, 1991; Codified by Law No. 91-12, November 16, 1991.]

Section 106. Maintenance of Records.

Original signed minutes, original signed ordinances, and original signed resolutions shall be kept in a locked fireproof file cabinet or in a fireproof safe in the office of the Council Secretary at the Seminole Nation Tribal Office. It shall be the responsibility of the Council Secretary to maintain General Council meeting minutes, ordinances, and resolutions in a manner consistent with the requirements of this Act, and the Council Secretary shall be the official custodian of said records.

[HISTORY: Ordinance No. 70-1; repealed by Ordinance 91-03, April 13, 1991; replaced by Ordinance No. 91-09, August 29, 1991; Codified by Law No. 91-12, November 16, 1991.]

Section 107. Certification of Authenticity.

At the time of attestation to an original ordinance or resolution, the Council Secretary shall prepare three certified copies of each ordinance and resolution enacted, and shall provide two of said copies to the Office of the Principal Chief of the Seminole Nation, and shall place one copy in the General Council files. Additional certified copies shall be prepared by the Secretary as needed upon request. Certification shall be accomplished by placing the seal of the Seminole Nation on the document, along with the following verification of authenticity upon the

document: "I certify that I am the duly appointed, qualified, and acting Secretary of the General Council of the Seminole Nation. I further certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original Ordinance/Resolution (circle one) No. _____. Executed this ___ day of _____, 199___. [Signature]"

[HISTORY: Ordinance No. 70-1; repealed by Ordinance 91-03, April 13, 1991; replaced by Ordinance No. 91-09, August 29, 1991; Codified by Law No. 91-12, November 16, 1991.]

**CHAPTER TWO
CODIFICATION OF LAWS**

Section 201.

The Code of Laws of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma is hereby established, which shall consist of all laws (ordinances) enacted by the General Council of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, placed in a code form pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2 et seq. herein.

[HISTORY: Law No. 91-12, November 16, 1991]

Section 202.

The laws of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, also known as ordinances, shall be classified by subject matter and codified in the appropriate titles of the Code of Laws of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, in accordance with the following classification system, provided that additional titles may be added by law duly enacted by the General Council when needed:

TITLE 1	Appellate Procedure (Reserved)
TITLE 2	Attorney General
TITLE 3	Civil Procedure (Reserved)
TITLE 4	Corporations (Reserved)
TITLE 5	Courts
TITLE 6	Criminal Offenses
TITLE 7	Criminal Procedure (Reserved)
TITLE 8	Economic Development
TITLE 9	Education (Reserved)
TITLE 10	Elections
TITLE 11	Employees
TITLE 12	Environmental Health and Safety
TITLE 13	Evidence (Reserved)
TITLE 14	Finance
TITLE 15	Gaming

TITLE 16	General Council
TITLE 17	Health
TITLE 18	Housing
TITLE 18-A	Judgment Fund Programs
TITLE 19	Juvenile
TITLE 20	Land Use
TITLE 21	Laws
TITLE 22	Membership
TITLE 23	Open Meetings (Reserved)
TITLE 24	Police and Law Enforcement
TITLE 25	Principal Chief
TITLE 26	Recreation
TITLE 27	Securities (Reserved)
TITLE 28	Taxation

[HISTORY: Law No. 91-12, November 16, 1991]

Section 203.

The following amendments of prior laws (ordinances) contained in the attached Code of Laws are hereby expressly approved:

- (a) Minor grammatical corrections;
- (b) Changes in section numbers;
- (c) Addition of headings in sections;
- (d) Addition of title numbers, and addition of chapter numbers within titles;
- (e) Merging of laws (ordinances) addressing the same subject matter, in a manner consistent with express and implied repeals of prior laws;

(f) Amendment of language in prior laws dealing with salary ranges, stipends or other forms of compensation to the Principal Chief, Assistant Chief, Treasurer, General Council members, Committee members, and tribal employees, said amendments appearing in the following provisions of the attached Code of Laws:

Title 11 (Employees), Sections 201-203.

Title 14 (Finance), Section 102.

Title 16 (General Council) , Sections 404, 501, 502, 601 and 602.

(g) Merger and reorganization of taxation ordinances required for placement in code form, said amended taxation laws appearing in Title 28 (Taxation).

(h) Any other minor amendments which did not affect the substance of the original law (ordinance).

[HISTORY: Law No. 91-12, November 16, 1991]

Section 204.

The laws (ordinances) of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, enacted from the time of the approval of the Constitution of the Seminole Nation in 1969 through the General Council meeting held on August 29, 1991, as amended pursuant to Section 3 above, are hereby classified by subject matter and codified in the appropriate titles of the Code of Laws of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, and the attached Code of Laws shall hereinafter be the sole law of the Seminole Nation in effect as of August 31, 1991; provided that all laws (ordinances) which have been or which may have been omitted from the Code of Laws attached hereto due to the repeal of such ordinances, inconsistencies between such ordinances and later ordinances, loss of such ordinances, failure of the General Council to place such ordinances in written form, or due to the lack of access to such ordinances for any other reason, are hereby repealed, and shall have no force and effect from this date forward.

[HISTORY: Law No. 91-12, November 16, 1991]

Section 205.

The codification of the laws (ordinances) of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma shall have no effect upon the validity of any resolutions, which are not in the nature of permanent general laws, and which are not subject to codification; provided that no resolution shall be viewed as taking any precedence over any inconsistent law (ordinance), nor shall an enactment which should have been in the form of a law (ordinance) but which was incorrectly labeled a resolution, be treated as a law (ordinance) until such time as it is placed in the proper form of a law (ordinance).

[HISTORY: Law No. 91-12, November 16, 1991]

Section 206.

Hereinafter, all laws (ordinances) enacted by the General Council of the Seminole Nation shall include a statement as to where such laws (ordinances) shall be placed in the Code of Laws; provided, that in the event that such statement is omitted from a law (ordinance), the law (ordinance) shall be classified and placed in an appropriate location in the Code of Laws by the Attorney General of the Seminole Nation, and the legal history of each section of a law shall be referenced by the Law Number and the date of enactment of the law.

[HISTORY: Law No. 91-12, November 16, 1991]

Section 207.

An updated copy of the Code of Laws shall be prepared by the Attorney General following each Council meeting, and at a minimum shall be maintained at all times in the office of the Attorney General, the office of the General Council Secretary, the Office of the Principal Chief, the Court Clerk's Office, and in the Library of the Seminole Nation. Updated copies of the Code of Laws shall be maintained on computer in the Executive Office and shall be provided to General Council members on an annual basis if funds are available for printing expenses.

[HISTORY: Law No. 91-12, November 16, 1991]

Section 208.

This law shall be entitled "Chapter Two, Codification of Laws," and shall be placed in the Code of Laws of the Seminole Nation under Title 21, "Laws", with section numbers to be renumbered as Section 201 through Section 208.

[HISTORY: Law No. 91-12, November 16, 1991]

Section 209.

The General Council of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, through the legal effect of ratification, hereby upholds all resolutions and ordinances previously resolved and enacted, so long as the particular resolutions and ordinances do not individually conflict with the Seminole Constitution.

[HISTORY: Enacted by Ordinance No. 2003-15, September 27,
2003.]