

**LITTLE SHELL TRIBE  
LITTLE SHELL TRIBAL CODE OF CONDUCT  
ENACTED ON DECEMBER 7, 2023**

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## **Section 1 – INTRODUCTION, PURPOSE, & AUTHORITY**

### **Section 1.1 – Short Title**

This Act shall be known and may be cited as the “Tribal Code of Conduct.”

### **Section 1.2 – Authority**

The Little Shell Tribal Code of Conduct is passed pursuant to Article III and Article VII of the Little Shell Constitution.

### **Section 1.3 – Purpose**

The Little Shell Tribal Council is striving to create a community that is open, safe, and respectful so that Little Shell tribal members may feel welcome and accepted. Indigenous communities have always been structured on the collective responsibility and the Little Shell Tribe is no exception. Being a Little Shell tribal member carries with it responsibilities to the tribal community. We must all strive to carry ourselves in accordance with the Seven Grandfather Teachings. It is the hope of the Tribal Council that by reminding our community about these teachings we will also remind Little Shell tribal members of our collective responsibility to the Tribe, our community, and importantly to each other.

### **Section 1.4 – Applicability**

The Tribal Code of Conduct shall apply to the maximum extent possible to all Little Shell tribal members, and all those non-Little Shell tribal members that seek to participate in the community.

### **Section 1.5 – Construction**

- (A) To the extent reasonable, the Tribal Code of Conduct shall be read and interpreted in a manner that is consistent with the Little Shell Constitution, but in the event of any inconsistency, the provisions of the Little Shell Constitution shall control.
- (B) The Tribal Code of Conduct shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purpose set forth in Section 1.3 of this Code.

### **Section 1.6 – Severability**

If any provision of the Tribal Code of Conduct, or the application thereof to any Person or circumstance, shall, for any reason be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of the law, which shall continue in full force and effect.

**Section 1.7 – Effective Date**

The Tribal Code of Conduct shall become effective on the date of its enactment.

**Section 2 – SEVEN GRANDFATHER TEACHINGS, CODE OF CONDUCT, &  
RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Section 2.1 – The Seven Grandfather Teachings**

The Seven Grandfather Teachings are our guiding principles in the collaboration towards restoration of the cultural values, beliefs, and practices. These teachings provide guidance to us in our interactions with one another and how we impact our surroundings.

**Section 2.2 – Code of Conduct**

The Little Shell Tribe’s Code of Conduct is based on the following principles:

**(A) Humility – Dbaadendiziwin**

Humility is represented by the wolf. For the wolf, life is lived for their pack and the ultimate shame is to be an outcast. Humility is to know that you are a sacred part of creation. Live life selflessly and not selfishly. Respect your place and carry your pride with your people and praise the accomplishments of all. Do not become arrogant and self-important. Find balance within yourself and all living things.

**(B) Bravery – Aakwa’ode’ewin**

Bravery is represented by the bear. The mother bear has the courage and strength to face her fears and challenges while protecting her young. The bear also shows us how to live a balanced life with rest, survival, and play. To face life with courage is to know bravery. Find your inner strength to face the difficulties of life and the courage to be yourself. Make positive choices and have conviction in your decisions. Face your fears to allow yourself to live your life.

**(C) Honesty – Gwekwaadziwin**

Honesty is represented by either the raven or the sable. They both understand who they are and how to walk in their life. To walk through life with integrity is to know honesty. Be honest with yourself. Recognize and accept who you are. Accept and use the gifts you have been given. Do not seek to deceive yourself or others. Remember that words have power and that we should all strive to make our words true because they have impact once spoken aloud.

**(D) Wisdom – Nbwaakaawin**

The beaver represents wisdom because he uses his natural gift wisely for his survival. The beaver also alters his environment in an environmentally friendly and sustainable way for the benefit of his family. To cherish knowledge is to know your wisdom. Use your inherent gifts wisely and live your life by them. Recognize your differences and

those of others in a kind and respectful way. Continuously observe the life of all things around you. Listen with clarity and a sound mind. Respect your own limitations and those of all your surroundings. Allow yourself to learn and live by your wisdom.

**(E) Truth – Debwewin**

Truth is represented by the turtle as he was here during the creation of Earth and carries the teachings of life on his back. The turtle lives life in a slow and meticulous manner because he understands the importance of both the journey and the destination. Truth is to know all of these things. Apply faith and trust in your teachings. Show honor and sincerity in all that you say and do. Understand your place in this life and apply that understanding in the way that you walk. Be true to yourself and all other things.

**(F) Respect – Mnaadendimowin**

Respect is represented by the buffalo. The buffalo gives every part of his being to sustain the human way of living, not because he is of less value, but because he respects the balance and needs of others. To honor all creation is to have respect. Live honorably in teachings and in your actions towards all things. Do not waste and be mindful of the balance of all living things. Share and give away what you do not need. Treat others the way you would like to be treated. Do not be hurtful to yourself or others.

**(G) Love – Zaagidwin**

The eagle represents love because he has the strength to carry all the teachings. The eagle can fly highest and closest to the Creator and also has the sight to see all the ways of being from great distances. The eagle's teaching of love can be found in the core of all teachings; therefore, an eagle feather is considered the highest honor and a sacred gift. To know love is to know peace. View your inner self from the perspective of all teachings. This is to know love and to love yourself truly. Then you will be at peace with yourself, the balance of life, all things and with the Creator.

**Section 2.3 – Responsibilities**

Little Shell tribal members, and those wishing to participate in the community, carry with them the responsibilities outlined in Section 2.2. These responsibilities stem from the Seven Grand Father Teachings and all Little Shell tribal members should embrace them in their interactions within the tribal community.

**Section 2.4 – Harmony**

No community is free from strife or disagreements, but through adherence of the responsibilities and values contained in the Seven Grandfather Teachings we can ensure that disagreements are handled in a positive and healthy manner. The goal is to maintain harmony whenever possible in the community so all that abide by their responsibilities are welcomed and those that abandon these responsibilities are not allowed to cause harm or discord within the community.

**Section 3 – ADHERENCE TO RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Section 3.1 – Adherence**

As stated in Section 2.3, Little Shell tribal members and those wishing to participate in the tribal community have a responsibility to adhere with the Seven Grandfather Teachings. This duty stems from our traditional teachings and has always been enforceable by traditional practices. It is expected that all Little Shell tribal members, and those wishing to participate in the community, adhere to, respect, and follow the Tribal Code of Conduct.

**Section 3.2 – Executive Committee of the Elder Society**

- (A) The Executive Committee of the Elder Society was created by the Little Shell Tribal Council through enactment of the Little Shell Elder Society Committee Code. The Elder Society Committee Code is not a governing body of the Tribe but was created to “help guide the Tribe and its tribal members to be a harmonious and healthy tribal community. Elder Society Code § 3.2 (A). It also provides “guidance and wisdom to the Tribe and its tribal members to ensure that Little Shell tribal culture, traditions, and values are maintained and protected.” Elder Society Code § 3.2 (B). Finally, the Elder Executive Committee is charged with ensuring that the “Tribe and its tribal members remember, understand, and respect the Seven Grandfather Teachings.”
- (B) The Tribal Council charges the Elder Society, through the Elder Society Executive Committee, to enforce the provisions of this Code of Conduct in a manner in keeping with the traditional cultural values of the Tribe.

**Section 3.3. – Referral to the Elder Society**

- (A) Any Little Shell tribal member may refer a situation, action, or conduct of any individual covered by this Code to the Elder Executive Committee. The referral must be in writing and provide specific evidence of non-adherence to this Code of Conduct.
- (B) The Elder Executive Committee may also address a situation, action, or conduct of any individual covered by this Code themselves.
- (C) The Little Shell Tribal Council may refer a situation, action, or conduct of any individual covered by this Code to the Elder Executive Committee. The referral must be in writing and provide specific evidence of non-adherence to this Code of Conduct.

**Section 3.4 – Hearing by the Elder Executive Committee on a Referral**

- (A) The Elder Executive Committee can choose to take up and consider a referral or to decline to consider a referral. Any decision to decline must be conferred with the Little Shell Tribal Council.

- (B) The Elder Executive Committee shall only consider referrals that are in writing and have merit. To be considered to have merit the referral must be supported by evidence that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the asserted action, behavior, or conduct occurred.
- i. Baseless allegations that are unsupported by evidence shall not be eligible for consideration by the Elder Executive Committee and shall be dismissed.
- (C) If a referral is considered, then the Elder Executive Committee shall offer the individual whom the referral was made against the opportunity to respond to the referral through both a written response and a hearing. The Elder Executive Committee shall inform the individual of the full contents of the referral.
- i. If the individual whom the referral was made declines to respond to the referral, then the Elder Executive Committee may proceed without their response.
  - ii. The Elder Executive Committee shall provide the individual to whom the referral was made at least fifteen (15) days to respond in writing.
  - iii. The Elder Executive Committee shall provide the individual to whom the referral was made at least twenty-five (25) days before a hearing is scheduled. The hearing may be in-person, telephonically, or on a web-based platform. A simple majority quorum of the Elder Executive Committee must be present to proceed with a hearing.
  - iv. The hearing shall last no more than thirty (30) minutes.

### **Section 3.5 – Remedies to Restore Harmony**

- (A) The purpose of the hearing is to determine whether a violation of the Tribal Code of Conduct has occurred. The Elder Executive Committee shall make a determination of whether a violation has occurred by consensus. The Elder Executive Committee shall endeavor to make its determination within thirty (30) days of the hearing.
- (B) If the Elder Executive Committee determines that no violation has occurred, or if it fails to reach a consensus that a violation occurred, the Elder Executive Committee shall prepare its determination to present to the Tribal Council. Upon the approval of the determination by Tribal Council, Elder Executive Committee shall then inform the individual whom the referral was made of the decision in writing.
- (C) If the Elder Executive Committee determines that a violation has occurred, then the Elder Executive Committee shall deliberate on a remedy that it feels will restore harmony to the tribal community. This remedy should be based in the traditions and culture of the Little Shell Tribe. The Elder Executive Committee may provide the following remedies:

- i. Providing counsel, guidance, and support from the Elder Executive Committee;
- ii. A fine that will be paid out of future Little Shell tribal assistance and/or payments; and/or
- iii. Suspension from all Little Shell tribal benefits, services, programming, events and activities for a period of time.

(D) The Elder Executive Committee shall then prepare a draft of its proposed remedy to present to the Tribal Council.

**Section 3.6 – Tribal Council Ratification**

(A) The Little Shell Tribal Council must approve and ratify any remedy that the Elder Executive Committee proposes for it to be valid.

(B) If the Little Shell Tribal Council ratifies the Elder Executive Committee’s proposed remedy, then the Elder Executive Committee shall inform the individual whom the referral was made against of the remedy imposed in writing.

**Section 3.7 – Enforceability of the Remedy**

Any remedy of the Elder Executive Committee that has been ratified by the Tribal Council shall have the full force of the law.

**Section 3.8 – Unofficial Counseling, Support, and Guidance**

(A) Nothing in this Code shall prevent the Elder Society, through its Elder Executive Committee, from offering unofficial counseling, support, and guidance outside of a formal referral under Section 3.3 to Little Shell tribal members or the broader community.

(B) Unofficial advice under this Section does not include public statements. Any public statements must be ratified by the Little Shell Tribal Council.

**Section 4 – NO FEDERAL OR STATE JURISDICTION**

**Section 4 – No Federal or State Adjudicatory Jurisdiction**

Nothing in this Code provides any jurisdiction to the federal, state, or local governments to adjudicate any issues arising from the Little Shell Tribal Code of Conduct.