

Annie S. Andrew
Kwethluk Tribal Judge Chief
Kwethluk, Alaska 99621
(907)757-6229 home

The Organized Village of Kwethluk has a population of over 800 people and the number is rising every year.

Our Kwethluk Tribal Court is recognized under the Kwethluk IRA Council and had been in existing under Kwethluk IRA Council since 1934.

The Law Enforcement funding is not enough. Our village has ONLY one full time Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO), and two Tribal Police Officers who work 6 hours a day on schedule basis. Our IRA Council often times hire temporary Tribal Police Officers and when funding gets scarce they are laid off and majority of the time they don't return to work because they are under paid and work long hours.

Our Tribal Court have the authority to deal with misdemeanor cases: such as: Domestic Violence, Driving under the influence, Theft & burglaries, Curfew Violations, Family abuse cases, Drug & Alcohol Importations, Child Welfare cases, Native Adoption and child Protection cases. Our Tribal Court issue search warrants to VPSO and Tribal Police upon request. The Tribal Court deals with all defendants that are charged with violations to local ordinances regardless of where they came from and some cases are referred to other tribal courts out of our jurisdiction.

The Kwethluk Tribal Court provides Judiciary law enforcement services to its Tribal members following the traditional, ^{unwritten} and written Tribal Ordinances established by the Kwethluk IRA Council and statutory ordinances of State of Alaska.

Kwethluk Tribal Court refers offenders/victims to our village based Wellness Counselors or village based resource staff for counseling.

Kwethluk Tribal Court respectfully requests assistance to continue our Tribal Court services to our Tribal members, instead of the State taking over to handle cases. Our Tribal members can receive counseling and do community services in our village instead to serve many years in jail somewhere in a place out of state.

Often times, VPSO TPO, Police Officers make mistakes in doing their Police reports on Tribal members and are taken straight to Bethel jail and not receive any proper handling procedures in 24 hours and had to spent, ^{long} time in jail or at the Tundra Center for awaiting trial.

Again, we are respectfully requesting assistance to continue our Tribal Court Services to our constituents.

Thank you for your time.