



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shiprock to host additional delayed birth certificate public outreach events

WINDOW ROCK – On August 22 and 23, the Office of the Speaker in coordination with the Navajo Office of Vital Records and various New Mexico agencies will host two public outreach events to assist Diné citizens with obtaining delayed birth certificates, driver's licenses, vehicle registrations, Driver Authorization Cards, and other documents that comply with the federal REAL ID Act.

The first event will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 22 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., and the second event will be on Thursday, Aug. 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Office of Diné Youth in Shiprock, New Mexico. The events will be for individuals seeking documentation through the state of New Mexico only.

Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) explained that the Navajo Office of Vital Records, New Mexico Department of Vital Records, and New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division will be onsite to answer questions and assist the public in obtaining documents.

"Since the federal Real ID Act took effect, many Navajo Nation constituents, particularly elderly people, continue to experience challenges in obtaining documents such as delayed birth certificates or Real ID/Driving Authorization Cards," said Speaker Bates.

In 2005, Congress passed the Real ID Act that established minimum-security standards for issuing driver's licenses and identification cards. The federal Act, which is enforced by the Department of Homeland Security, requires states to become compliant by October 2020.

Speaker Bates noted that hundreds of individuals have successfully obtained delayed birth certificates and other documentation through several public events have already been held in various communities, and said that he is hopeful the upcoming events will build on the success of previous events.

Individuals are encouraged to bring the following supporting documents to the events:

Documents prior to 10 years of age:

- Church Records
- Elementary cumulative records

- Government Census records (you may call 301-763-4636 to obtain legal records from the Census Office)
- Certified Hospital or Medical Records
- Government Birth Affidavit, Tribal Census, Tribal Enrollment, Certificate of Indian blood, etc.

Documents established later in life:

- Military Service or Discharge Records
- High School cumulative record
- Government Census records
- Life or Medical Insurance Policies,
- Childs Certified Birth Certificate. (Issued by State where child was born)
- Certified Hospital or Medical Records
- An official archived copy of your first Original Application for Social Security Card.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact the Navajo Office of Vital Records in Shiprock at (505) 368-1334 or the Office of the Speaker at (928) 871-7160.

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