



# Missing and Murdered Dine' Relative Task Force 2026 Spring Session Report April 2026



# Executive Summary

Over the past six months, the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force has maintained progress through outreach events, training sessions, policy development, and direct family support, while operating under significant financial and administrative constraints. The Task Force continued to fulfill its mandate and serve Diné families and communities with dedication.

The reporting period of October 2025 through April 2026 reflects the Task Force's resilience and continued commitment to its mission and goals. Within those seven months, the Task Force conducted four major training sessions, assisted eight Navajo families seeking information and support related to missing or murdered loved ones cases, advanced key policy recommendations to strengthen Navajo Nation law under Title 17, and made substantial progress toward finalizing the Navajo Nation Tribal Community Response Plan (TCRP). These accomplishments reflect the dedication of each Task Force member, who has continued their work largely through volunteer efforts in the absence of stable operational funding.

## *Urgent Requests to the Navajo Nation Council*

The MMDR Task Force respectfully requests that the 25th Navajo Nation Council consider the following action items:

- Support the MMDR Task Force recommendations to increase the number of our task force members, community, and organization representatives.
- Approve recurring and sustainable funding for MMDR Task Force operations, which include funding support for the organizations that provide services to our Navajo relatives facing challenges to find their missing loved ones or to get justice for those whose lives have been taken.
- Support legislative amendments to the Navajo Nation Code under Title 17, eliminate the statute of limitations for sex crimes against Navajo children, strengthen the definition of strangulation, and improve the Victim Rights subchapter.
- The Council support to pass the finalized and updated version of the Navajo Nation's Tribal Community Response Plan (TCRP) – hopefully to be completed by the 2026 Summer Session.
- Strengthen and adequately resource the Navajo Police Department Missing Persons Unit (MPU).

## *Top Priorities for 2026*

The following items represent the Task Force's highest legislative and operational priorities for the current session:

- Finalize and formally adopt the Tribal Community Response Plan (TCRP).
- Advance Title 17 amendments, including victim rights protections and statute of limitations reforms.
- Adequately support and resource the Navajo Police Department Missing Persons Unit (MPU).
- Establish a formal MMDR Office with a defined staffing structure and operational timeline.
- Continue to schedule and plan outreach events, trainings, and educational presentations for the community
- Amend the 2023 Victim's Rights Act to strengthen language in the legislation to better protect and serve victims of crime
- Continue to finalize the MMDR Database hosted by Navajo Technical University

# Status Snapshot – Where We Are

The following section provides a brief overview of the Task Force’s major accomplishments during the reporting period, as well as the objectives of the work that remains incomplete. This snapshot is intended to give the 25th Navajo Nation Council a clear and accurate description of current operations and outstanding needs.

## Major Accomplishments (October 2025 – April 2026)

### *Training Conducted*

The MMDR Task Force conducted four major training sessions during the reporting period, demonstrating its continued commitment to capacity-building for first responders, community members, and partner agencies. These sessions addressed critical gaps in preparedness and response protocols for cases involving missing and murdered Diné persons.

- Child Abduction Tabletop Exercise (Level 1) – September 2025
- Human Trafficking Awareness Training – January 2026
- Child Abduction Tabletop Exercise (Level 2) – March 2026
- Tribal Community Response Plan (TCRP) Training – March 2026
- UPCOMING: Missing and Murdered Diné Relative Symposium hosted by. Division of Behavioral and Mental Health Services, MMDR Task Force, guest speakers at the event

### *Outreach and Public Education*

Due to operational restrictions stemming from the Presidential veto on virtual attendance, the Task Force was unable to conduct official meetings for a significant portion of the reporting period.

In response, the Task Force adapted its approach and hosted weekly virtual educational sessions integrated into core team meetings. These sessions served as an important channel for community engagement, awareness-building, and interagency coordination during a period of constrained operations.

Virtual session participants included representatives from the following groups:

- Grassroots activists and community advocates
- Regional and national advocacy organizations
- Navajo Nation departments and agencies
- Families of missing loved ones

The following organizations and individuals delivered presentations for public awareness and education:

- Turtle Island Woman Warriors – Trafficked to Treatment MMIR Advocacy
- “She Cried That Day” - presenter: Amanda Erickson, Director
- National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) – Presenter Aaron A. Payment
- Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women – Presenter Patrick Gallegos – 4Ps of Trafficking
- 4 Corners K9 Search and Rescue – Presenter Bernadine Beyale
- LGBTQ+ law enforcement training and cultural awareness presented by Renae Swope
- Yideeskáadi Hózhoojí Center (YHC) – Levi Long and Larita Anderson

## ***Family Assistance***

Since October 2025, the MMDR Task Force has directly assisted eight Navajo families seeking updates and support related to missing or murdered loved ones. The Task Force coordinated closely with the Navajo Police Department, Criminal Investigations Unit, and non-profit organizations to help facilitate these cases.

Throughout this work, the Task Force has maintained strict confidentiality and treated all affected families with the dignity and cultural respect that their circumstances require.

The MMDR Task Force handles highly sensitive information related to ongoing investigations, victim identities, and family circumstances. Protecting this information is both an ethical obligation and a legal necessity. In order to maintain the confidentiality that families depend upon and to preserve the Task Force's credibility as a trustworthy partner to law enforcement agencies.

## ***Policy Progress Under Title 17***

The Task Force has advanced a series of policy recommendations aimed at strengthening the Navajo Nation's law to better protect victims and their families. These recommendations, which are detailed further in the Policy and Legislative Recommendations section of this report, include the following priority reforms:

- Removal of the statute of limitations for murder and sex crimes against children
- Establishment of a Department of Medical Examiners within the Navajo Nation
- Strengthening the law for criminal offenses, including human trafficking and strangulation
- Strengthening of victim rights and improving missing person's alert notification requirements (Amber Alert, and Silver Alert.)
- Modernization of kidnapping and luring definitions and offense charges

## ***What Remains Incomplete***

While the Task Force has made meaningful progress across several areas, several critical initiatives remain incomplete and require the 25th Navajo Nation Council's support and action to move forward.

The Task Force identifies the following as outstanding priorities:

- Finalization of the law enforcement section of the Tribal Community Response Plan (TCRP) – original request was made back in September 2024
- Establishment of a formal MMDR Office with a defined staffing structure
- Establish coordination with the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety to work with Navajo Technical University, host of the MMDR Database. The prototype is currently under development.

# **Tribal Community Response Plan (TCRP) Training Summary and Key Takeaways**

The Navajo Nation Tribal Community Response Plan (TCRP) represents one of the Task Force's most significant actions. The TCRP is designed to establish standardized, culturally informed protocols for responding to cases of missing and murdered Diné persons across the Navajo Nation.

When fully adopted and implemented, the TCRP will provide law enforcement, families, and community organizations with a unified framework that reduces confusion, closes communication gaps, and ensures that no

case falls through the cracks of competing jurisdictional systems.

The TCRP Training conducted in March 2026 yielded critical insights that will directly inform the plan's ongoing development. Participants identified several recurring themes and structural barriers that the TCRP must address in order to be effective.

### ***Key Findings from TCRP Training***

The following concerns were identified as central challenges that the Tribal Community Response Plan must address:

- Significant communication gaps exist between responding agencies and the families of missing or murdered individuals, often leaving families without timely or accurate information about case status.
- Jurisdictional challenges across tribal, state, and federal systems continue to create delays and confusion in case response, particularly in instances where multiple law enforcement entities share or dispute authority.
- Available investigative tools, databases, and resources are underutilized by the Navajo Police Department Missing Persons Unit, often due to a lack of training, awareness, or access.
- There is an urgent need for standardized response protocols that are consistent across the Navajo Nation and clearly understood by all parties involved in a missing persons or criminal investigation.

### ***TCRP Completion Status***

The following sections of the TCRP have been completed and are ready for review:

- Victim Advocacy protocols and resources
- Communication frameworks and inter-agency notification procedures
- Public outreach guidelines and community engagement strategies

The law enforcement guidelines section of the TCRP remains in active development. This section is being finalized in coordination with Sergeant Gary Grandson and the Navajo Police Department Missing Persons Unit (MPU), and its completion is a critical prerequisite for full TCRP adoption.

### ***TCRP Next Steps***

The Task Force has identified the following as the immediate steps required to finalize and implement the TCRP:

- Finalize the law enforcement section in collaboration with Sgt. Gary Grandson and the MPU by May 2026
- Conduct a follow-up meeting with all relevant parties to review and approve the completed draft
- Implement an annual review and update process to ensure the TCRP remains current with evolving technology and changes in best practices

Supporting materials from the TCRP training sessions, including detailed training notes and worksheets, are included as appendices to this report for the Council's reference.

# Missing and Murdered Diné Relative Database Navajo Technical University and Key Takeaways

Navajo Technical University (NTU) continues to refine the application scope of work and advance development of a prototype web-based MMDR database to support the Navajo Nation community. The proposed system is designed to center community needs, particularly enabling families to report, share, and track information related to missing or murdered relatives. Unlike existing systems that primarily serve federal, state, and tribal public safety agencies, this effort is focused on community engagement and research and will exclude data restricted by public safety or healthcare regulations.

To support alignment with ongoing Navajo Nation initiatives, NTU has requested coordination with the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety to discuss data exchange planning and the Diné Action Plan (DAP) data warehouse or decision support efforts. NTU is in development of an application to verify functional and operational database characteristics. The initial prototype will include the following core functional operations:

- Family and agency profiles (intake, verification, and data exchange with application services).
- Public safety data intake and reporting from authorized agencies, no case data or confidential information.
- Customer Relationship Management (CRM) for families to track agency services, contacts, communication with public safety, etc.
- Poster builder to produce PDFs from pictures, text, and other data (for public use on Facebook, Instagram, etc.).
- Survey tool to build questionnaires with multiple choice, free text, etc.
- Social media links - link family or individual records to social media sites, especially Facebook.
- Text messaging service that allows families to receive text messages and other communications (email, video, others) on the status of their cases.

NTU requests the following information and discussion to better align the MMDR technical architecture, where appropriate:

- Data Sharing: Current data-sharing agreements with families, general services, and support agencies, and any provisions for extending access to additional tribal entities.
- Sustainability: Plans to incorporate MMDR-related functionality for family access within the forthcoming ERP system or related applications.
- Data Sovereignty and Security: Data storage locations and security measures governing data protection, transmission, and controlled access for Navajo Nation users, including NTU and Diné College.
- Networking Infrastructure: Existing or planned network capabilities that support access to cloud-based systems and public safety resources.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI): Strategies for integrating open-source or commercial AI tools into DAP-related data systems.

## Funding and Budget

### *Current Allocation Status*

The MMDR Task Force is currently operating with minimal to no active funding. There is no stable budget for travel, community outreach, or day-to-day operations. Non-profit organizations, Navajo Nation Departments, and Navajo Technical University support the MMDR Task Force, but are limited in their resources. This situation has created a profound operational setback that threatens the Task Force's ability to serve Diné families and fulfill our duties.

Specific operational hindrances attributable to the current funding situation include the following:

- The absence of funding for in-person community outreach events and travel to remote communities
- Ongoing delays in contract execution that limit the Task Force's ability to engage service providers and partners, specifically for 4 Corners K9 Search and Rescue and Northern Arizona Victim Witness Services
- Severely limited administrative and staffing capacity, which delays documentation, coordination, and reporting functions

### ***Impact of the Presidential Veto***

The President's veto for Virtual Attendance issued by President Buu Nygren has had a direct and materially significant impact on the day-to-day operations of the MMDR Task Force. The consequences of this veto have extended beyond budgetary inconvenience; they have fundamentally constrained the Task Force's ability to carry out our mission.

The following operational impacts are directly attributable to the Presidential veto:

- The Task Force has been unable to formally convene in hybrid-meeting settings, limiting official decision-making capacity and the Task Force's ability to take formal action.
- Members have had to rely on informal and alternative methods to continue outreach and training efforts, operating outside of normal institutional channels.
- Despite these challenges, Task Force members have remained active through volunteer effort and informal coordination — a commitment that reflects the dedication of individual members but is not a sustainable long-term model.

The Task Force cannot continue to serve Diné families effectively without restored and stable funding. The current model places an undue burden on individual members and limits their scope of work, quality, and consistency of services to provide.

### ***Recommended Funding Allocations (Next Fiscal Year)***

The Task Force respectfully requests that the Council approve the following funding allocations for the next fiscal year. These allocations are essential to restoring full operational capacity and ensuring that the Task Force can serve Diné families with the consistency and quality they deserve.

- Operational funding for Task Force meetings, member travel, and community outreach activities
- Dedicated support for the Navajo Police Department Missing Persons Unit (MPU), including personnel and investigative resources
- Funding or a formal mutual aid agreement to support 4 Corners K9 Search and Rescue, which plays a critical role in active missing persons searches
- Funding for Northern Arizona Victim Witness Services, Utah Navajo Health Services, and the Missing and Murdered Diné Relative Coalition to handle overflow advocacy cases that exceed the Task Force's direct service capacity
- Funding for Navajo Technical University to finalize the MMDR Database

### ***Proposed Solutions to Funding Bottlenecks***

To prevent future funding interruptions from paralyzing Task Force operations, the Task Force recommends that the Council consider the following structural solutions.

First, the Task Force recommends that the Council include conditional appropriation language when funding the

Department of Public Safety (DPS), Division for Children and Family Services (DCFS), and other division who assist with funding for MMDR initiatives. To ensure that MMDR-related functions are protected from blanket budget cuts or line-item vetoes that do not specifically target these programs.

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The following operational impacts are directly attributable to the Presidential veto:

- The Task Force has been unable to formally convene in virtual settings, limiting official decision-making capacity and the Task Force's ability to take formal action.
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- Despite these challenges, Task Force members have remained active through volunteer effort and informal coordination — a commitment that reflects the dedication of individual members but is not a sustainable long-term model.

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First, the Task Force proposes that the Council establish mutual aid agreements with key partner organizations and agencies. These agreements would allow the Task Force to maintain services even during periods when direct appropriations are delayed or disrupted.

Second, the Task Force recommends that the Council include conditional appropriation language when funding the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Division for Children and Family Services (DCFS), and other division who assist with funding for MMDR initiatives. To ensure that MMDR-related functions are protected from blanket budget cuts or line-item vetoes that do not specifically target these programs.

## **Policy and Legislative Recommendations**

A core responsibility of the MMDR Task Force is to identify gaps in Navajo Nation law and recommend legislative changes that will improve outcomes for missing persons cases and survivors of violent crime. The Task Force has developed a comprehensive set of legislative priorities under Title 17 of the Navajo Nation Code that it urges the Council to support. These recommendations are the product of extensive review, consultation with partner agencies, and direct input from affected families.

### ***Priority Title 17 Amendments***

The following amendments to the Navajo Nation Code under Title 17 are identified as the Task Force's highest legislative priorities:

- Establish a formal Victim Rights Subchapter within Title 17 to codify and protect the rights of victims and their families throughout the investigative and judicial process
- Remove the existing three-year statute of limitations for murder and sex crimes against children, ensuring that survivors and prosecutors are not foreclosed from pursuing justice due to arbitrary time limitations
- Remove or substantially extend the statute of limitations for homicide-related offenses, consistent with the gravity of these crimes and the realities of cold case investigations

### ***Additional Legislative Recommendations***

Beyond the priority Title 17 amendments, the Task Force recommends the following additional legislative actions to strengthen the effectiveness and representation of the MMDR Task Force itself.

The Task Force proposes expanding its membership to 20 members. This expansion is intended to ensure that the Task Force has sufficient representation across all branches of the Navajo Nation government, public safety, and community/organizational representatives.

Proposed membership categories include:

- Representatives from all three branches of the Navajo Nation government (OPVP, OOS, and Judicial branch)
- Representatives from NABI, LOC, and HEHSC
- Representative(s) from Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council
- Law enforcement and public safety representatives, including NPD MPU, Criminal Investigations, Public Defender’s Office, and the Prosecutor’s Office
- Nine community and organizational representatives, with a recommended term limit of two years and a rotation policy to ensure fresh perspectives and a broad community voice

### ***Selection Committee and Membership Updates***

The Task Force’s Selection Committee is currently engaged in a process of updating community representative assignments and replacing members who have departed from their positions, particularly those from the Public Safety who are no longer with their respective departments or programs.

The finalization of updated community representative appointments is expected by April 2026. The Task Force is committed to ensuring that all membership vacancies are filled by qualified individuals who bring meaningful community connections and institutional expertise to the task force.

## **Outreach, Representation, and Staffing**

### ***Proposal to Establish a Formal MMDR Office***

The Task Force is recommending the establishment of a formal MMDR Office as a permanent institutional home for the Task Force’s work. A dedicated office would provide stable administrative infrastructure, dedicated staffing, and the organizational capacity necessary for the Task Force to fulfill its mandate consistently and effectively over the long term.

The Task Force proposes that the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council support the development of a detailed staffing structure and implementation timeline for the MMDR Office. Such an office would be responsible for data tracking, community outreach coordination, case coordination support, and administrative functions that currently fall on volunteer Task Force members.

## **Appendices**

The following appendices are attached to this report and incorporated by reference:

<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Description</b>
Appendix A	Training Notes from current CATE Level 2 and TCRP training sessions
Appendix B	Title 17 Draft Statutory Language – Priority Amendments

# Appendix A

## Training Notes from current CATE Level 2 and TCRP training sessions

### AMBER ALERT TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



## AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program Resources

### Contact Us:

- Email: [askamber@fvtc.edu](mailto:askamber@fvtc.edu)
- Phone: 877/712-6237

### Our Websites:

- **AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program (AATTAP):** <https://amberadvocate.org>
  - Read about AATTAP's **mission**, view and download our **fact sheet**, and meet/**Contact AATTAP's Staff and Regional Liaisons:** <https://www.amberadvocate.org/about/>
  - Use our interactive map to find information on **state AMBER Alert and Missing Persons Clearinghouse programs:** <https://www.amberadvocate.org/amber-alert-network/meet-our-partners/>
  - **AMBER Alert News, Interviews, and Feature Stories** can be found through the AMBER Advocate Newsletters: <https://www.amberadvocate.org/category/issue/>
  - **Training and Technical Assistance Offerings**, listed by course and for viewing all currently scheduled training events open for registration: <https://www.amberadvocate.org/training-resources/>
  - **Live/Scheduled and Recorded Webinars:** <https://www.amberadvocate.org/training-resources/webinars/>
- **AMBER Alert in Indian Country (AIIC):** <https://amber-ic.org>
  - Read about **AIIC's mission**, and **meet our staff:** <https://amber-ic.org/about/mission/>
  - **Training and Technical Assistance Offerings** for Indian Country: <https://amber-ic.org/resources/training-2/>
  - **Downloadable Resources** for tribal law enforcement, child protection advocates, and community members: <https://amber-ic.org/amber-resources/>
  - Complete an online **Tribal Needs Assessment:** <https://amber-ic.org/resources/trainingta/>
  - **Tribal Connections Blog:** <https://amber-ic.org/category/tribal-connections/>

### Finding our Featured Publications by Topic:

- **Best Practices and Model Policies** for law enforcement field operations, investigative response, 9-1-1/telecommunications, media/public information, and more: <https://www.amberadvocate.org/best-practices/>
- **Child Abduction Response Team (CART)** guides, sample protocols, form templates, and other resources to support creating, sustaining, and preparing for USDOJ/AATTAP certification: <https://www.amberadvocate.org/cartresources/>
- **Investigative Checklists Resource Hub** for patrol, investigative and supervisory officers: <https://www.amberadvocate.org/investigative-checklists/>
- **Child Protection and Community Safety Resources** for law enforcement, family, and community-based advocacy organizations, International program and resource information, and relevant research and analytics around endangered, exploited, trafficked, missing and abducted children: <https://www.amberadvocate.org/training-resources/community-resources/>

# AMBER ALERT

## TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



### Other Websites:

- Matrix of OVC/BJA-Funded Human Trafficking Services Grantees and Task Forces - <https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/humantrafficking/map.html>
- NAMUS – <https://www.namus.gov/>
- National AMBER Alert Initiative, Office of Justice Programs – <https://amberalert.ojp.gov/>
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children – <http://www.missingkids.org/>
- National Center for Victims of Crime – <https://victimsofcrime.org/>
- National Criminal Justice Training Center – <https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu>
- Office of Justice Programs – <https://www.ojp.gov/>
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) – <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/>
- OJJDP Publications – <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/library/publications/list>
- Polaris Project – <https://polarisproject.org/>
- Project Safe Childhood – <https://www.justice.gov/psc>
- Project Safe Neighborhoods – <https://www.justice.gov/psn>
- US Department of Justice – <https://www.justice.gov/>

### Alphabetical listing of primary publications and resources found via the previous links:

- A Family Resource Guide on International Parental Kidnapping
- A Law Enforcement Guide on International Family Kidnapping
- AMBER Alert Best Practices Guide
- AMBER Alert Field Guide for Law Enforcement Officers
- AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Opportunities
- AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program Fact Sheet
- Assessment of the U.S. Government Efforts to Combat Trafficking In Persons
- Bought & Sold: Helping Young People Escape from Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Case Management for Missing Children Homicide Investigation - 'Washington State Study' (multiple pubs)
- Child Abduction Response Team (CART) Certification Manual and Agency Guide
- Child Abduction Response Team (CART) Program Implementation Guide
- Child Molesters Who Abduct
- Children's Internet Protection Act – Study of Technology Protection Measures
- Distinctions Between Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking Fact Sheet
- Effective Use of NCIC: The National Crime Information Center Database - A Quick Reference Guide for Law Enforcement Telecommunications
- Federal Resources on Missing and Exploited Children
- Guide for Implementing and Enhancing an Endangered Missing Advisory
- Internet Crimes/Safety
- Internet Sex Crimes Against Minors: The Response of Law Enforcement
- Missing and Abducted Children – A Law Enforcement Guide To Case Investigation and Program Management
- Model Policy for Missing, Abducted and Sexually Exploited Children and Addendum for Missing Children with Special Needs

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## TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



- National Guidelines for Sex Offender Registration and Notification
- National Incident Study on Missing, Abducted, Runaway, Thrownaway Children - NISMART (multiple pubs)
- NCIC Missing Person Data Collection Guide
- NCMEC Child Sex Trafficking Case Resources for Law Enforcement
- Protecting Children in Cyberspace – The ICAC Task Force
- Recovery and Reunification of Missing Children – A Team Approach
- Sex Offender Management and Accountability
- Telecommunications Best Practices When Responding to Calls of Missing, Abducted and Sexually Exploited Children
- Understanding and Improving Law Enforcement Responses to Human Trafficking
- What About Me? Coping With The Abduction Of A Brother Or Sister
- What You Need to Know – Sex Trafficking & Sexual Exploitation – A Training Tool for Parents of Teens, Arizona State University
- When Your Child Is Missing – A Family Survival Guide
- You’re Not Alone – The Journey from Abduction to Empowerment

### Spanish Language Resources:

<https://www.amberadvocate.org/enespanol/recurso-de-proteccion-infantil/>

- AZCART – Neighborhood Canvass and Roadblock Canvass Forms
- Cuando su Hijo desaparecido – Una guía desupervivencia para la familia (A Family Survival Guide)
- Departamento de Justicia de Estados Unidos Criterios Recomendados para la Alerta AMBER
- Guia de referencia rápida para familias en caso de niños desaparecidos, repuesta a emergencias
- Hoja de datos sobre la Alerta AMBER – Uso eficaz del NCIC
- La Alerta AMBER folleto
- La Alerta AMBER Guía de las mejores practicas para radiodifusores y otros medios de comunicación
- Lista de Control de Investigacion para los Primeros en Responder
- Sample Consent to Search Digital Evidence – Spanish
- Telecommunications Best Practices When Responding to Calls of Missing, Abducted and Sexually Exploited Children



# AMBER Alert in Indian Country Child Abduction Tabletop Exercise Participant Instructional Outline

## Module: AIC Child Abduction Tabletop Exercise - Blue

### Opening:

The Tabletop Exercise is designed to test the participant's ability to respond to and conduct an initial investigation and search for a missing or abducted child utilizing the Incident Command System (ICS) and Search and Rescue (SAR) practices. This course will develop appropriate strategies and responses in mitigating and resolving the emergency. Participants will build a level of cohesiveness within the multi-disciplinary team in working together to respond to the emergency. The training will be presented in a manner that elicits learner participation.

### Foundation Component 1: Tabletop Instructions

**Key Point:** Identify the need for roles and a written activity log during the exercise.

- a) Assign teams.
- b) Identify an incident commander for each team.
- c) Identify who will be responsible for conducting the written activity log.
- d) Participants will be given "interjects" throughout the exercise. It is the responsibility of the team to come up with resources and investigative techniques to satisfy each interject.
- e) The team leader will report out on the team's findings.

### Foundation Component 2: Tabletop Overview

**Key Point:** An overview of the case study will be given. The initial overview for the tabletop exercise includes:

- a) Victim and suspect information.
- b) Date of the incident/case.
- c) Agencies involved in the investigation.

# AMBER ALERT

## TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



### Foundation Component 3: The tabletop exercise will be delivered in chronological order

**Key Point:** The tabletop exercise is designed for class participation. At appropriate times, the instructor will want interjections from the class (i.e., input on investigative strategies, search operations, technology resources etc.)

### Foundation Component 4: Discuss the key components of the tabletop exercise and how local, state, federal and tribal resources were applied

**Key Point:** Discuss resources.

- a) Search and canvass
- b) Tribal, State and/or Regional AMBER Alert Plan
- c) Intelligence
- d) Media
- e) Social media
- f) Command post operations
- g) Volunteers
- h) Investigative
- i) PIO
- j) Personnel

### Waiver and Disclaimer of Liability

This training is designed to provide you with information, tools, and skills that you can apply in your work. Not all of the material presented in this class may be applicable in your particular jurisdiction. Laws vary from one jurisdiction to another and both technology and laws are dynamic and ever changing. Before implementing any aspect of this training, consult with your supervisor and local prosecutor. Always follow your agency's policy and guidance.

Printed and electronic material provided to you is intended to help you learn and apply the information presented. These materials are not intended to be all-inclusive or exhaustive. The use of specific investigative methodologies, hardware devices and software tools demonstrated in the training is not an endorsement by Fox Valley Technical College or other sponsors or funders of the training, nor a guarantee that their use is appropriate in all circumstances. Before using these tools, check with your supervisors and prosecutor's office, if applicable, to be sure they are valid and appropriate in your jurisdiction. Software and other material may be subject to copyright protection and may require licensing or permission before use.



# Tribal Community Response Plans for Missing Indigenous Persons Training and Technical Assistance



In partnership with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), U.S. Department of Justice, the National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College provides training and technical assistance (TTA) to tribal law enforcement agencies and communities wishing to implement a Tribal Community Response Plan (TCRP) to address missing Indigenous persons cases.

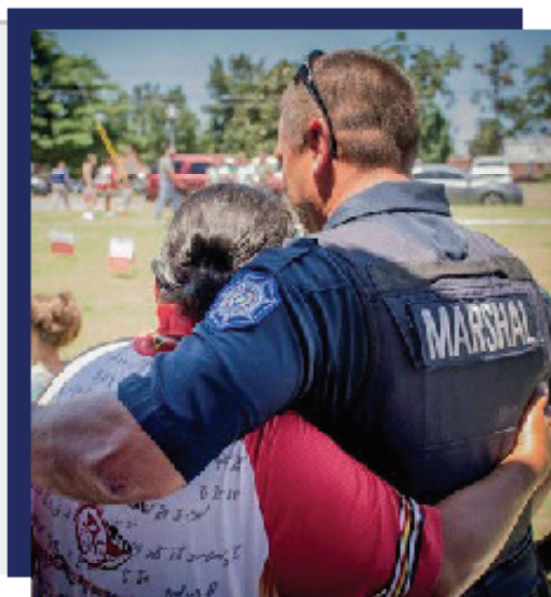
The TCRP TTA Program provides a variety of supportive services and resources to guide law enforcement on response strategies and best practices in interacting with families of missing Indigenous persons in a victim-centered, trauma informed and culturally appropriate manner.

## WHAT IS A TCRP?

A TCRP is a guide for how a Tribal community will respond to a report of a new missing person case.

Developing a plan that is multidisciplinary and tailored to the resources of each unique Tribal community that also elicits community assistance is one of the best ways to prepare for missing person cases of all types.<sup>1</sup> For more information, including frequently asked questions and a sample TCRP, please visit the [U.S. Department of Justice Website](https://www.justice.gov/tribal/mmip/tribal-community-response-plans).

[1] "Tribal Community Response Plans," Tribal Justice and Safety, March 31, 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/tribal/mmip/tribal-community-response-plans>.



## HOW WE CAN HELP

Our Tribal Community Response Plan Training and Technical Assistance services include but are not limited to:

- Onsite facilitation and tabletop exercises
- Community education
- Assistance with community meeting facilitation
- Resource identification
- Policy and procedure development or enhancement assistance
- Engagement of jurisdictional partners
- Support in collaborative relationship building
- TCRP writing and reviewing assistance
- Mentoring and coaching
- Additional resources and tools to aid in TCRP development

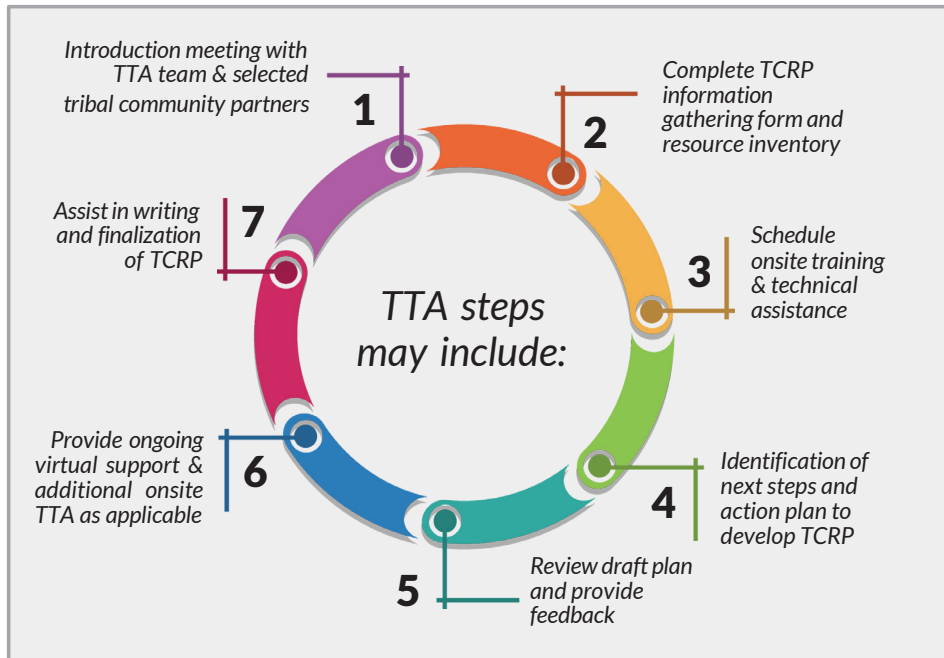


Scan the QR code to learn more



## OUR APPROACH

NCJTC's TTA approach is to ensure TCRPs are tribal community-led and community policing oriented, following the direction of tribal leaders and community members. It is NCJTC's goal to assist tribes in developing programs and TCRPs that speak to their own circumstances as they define them.



To request and build a customized TTA plan...

✉ info@ncjtc.org

☎ 855-866-2582

🌐 [ncjtc.fvtc.edu/TRCP](https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/TRCP)

Scan the QR code to learn more

## ABOUT US

# NCJTC

The National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College (NCJTC) is a leading national training organization dedicated to criminal justice professionals. For over thirty years, NCJTC has been entrusted to manage complex national training and technical assistance projects that demand attention to detail, competency

diversity, flexibility, and innovation. NCJTC values collaboration, builds partnerships, and leverages the expertise of hundreds of experienced staff and practitioners to deliver meaningful and relevant training and technical assistance throughout the nation. Learn more at [ncjtc.org](https://ncjtc.org).

# COPS

Community Oriented Policing Services  
U.S. Department of Justice

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) is the component of the U.S. Department of Justice responsible for advancing the practice of community policing by the nation's state, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies through information and grant resources. Community

policing begins with a commitment to building trust and mutual respect between police and communities. It supports public safety by encouraging all stakeholders to work together to address our nation's crime challenges. When law enforcement and communities collaborate, they more effectively address underlying issues, change negative behavioral patterns, and allocate resources. The COPS Office awards grants to hire community policing professionals, develop and test innovative policing strategies, and provide training and technical assistance to community members, local government leaders, and all levels of law enforcement. Since 1994, the COPS Office has been appropriated more than \$20 billion to help advance community policing. **Learn more at [cops.usdoj.gov/](https://cops.usdoj.gov/)**

[1] "About COPS." About Cops | COPS OFFICE. Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://cops.usdoj.gov/aboutcops>.

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# Appendix B

## Title 17 Draft Statutory Language – Priority Amendments

2025.11.22. 25-353-1 Title 14 and 17 OTP Revisions Incorporated.doc, here is a summary of the changes to the Navajo Nation Code that relate to missing and murdered persons:

### ***Addressing Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) through Legislative Reform***

Presenter: AKC • 12/17/2025

## **Elimination of Statute of Limitations for Murder**

1. Elimination of Statute of Limitations for Murder
2.
  - No Time Limit on Prosecution: The legislation explicitly removes the statute of limitations for the crime of Murder (17 N.N.C. § 303)1. Previously, the Nation had a statute of limitations of three years for many offenses, which the Council found insufficient for egregious crimes like the murder of Navajo children 2.
3.
  - Retroactivity: Prosecution for murder may now be commenced at any time after the commission of the offense without limitation 3.
4.
  - Related Homicides:
5.
  - Manslaughter: Prosecution must commence within six years 4.
6.
  - Negligent Homicide: Prosecution must commence within six years 5.
7.
  - Vehicular Homicide: Prosecution must commence within six years 6.

## **Establishment of the Navajo Department of Medical Examiners**

- To better investigate murdered and deceased individuals, the Act establishes a new Navajo Department of Medical Examiners within the Division of Public Safety7.
- - Mandate: The Department is tasked with investigating all deaths occurring under suspicious circumstances, including violent and unexplained deaths8.
- - Authority: The Chief Medical Examiner is authorized to issue death certificates, respond to death scenes, and take possession of bodies for medicolegal investigation9.
- - Exhumations: The Act provides a legal process for the Office of the Prosecutor to petition the District Court for the exhumation of a body if the cause of death cannot be determined otherwise and is required for public safety or medical necessity101010.
- - **\*\* culturally respectful:\*\*** Investigations must be conducted in a manner that respects Navajo culture, tradition, and beliefs11.





Ahéhee' – Thank You

Diné baa hózhó nahasdlíí' dooleet  
May there be harmony and peace for the Diné People.

