



aaponaminkia

Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
Repatriation Guidelines



*Best Practices for Respectful Consultation & Repatriation
for Museums, Universities, & Federal Agencies*



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Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1326
Miami, OK 74355
<https://miamination.com/>

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Introduction to the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

Aya! Hello!

In our language, we are myaamia “the downstream people.” The Tribe is a sovereign nation with a centuries-long intergovernmental relationship with the United States. The Tribe’s seat of government and reservation is in northeastern Oklahoma in the city of Miami, and the Tribe has over 7,000 citizens as of 2024. While Miami tribal citizens live in all 50 states and abroad, the Tribe’s population is concentrated in northeastern Oklahoma, eastern Kansas, and northern Indiana. This reflects the historical experiences of the Tribe, having suffered a series of forced removals by the federal government from our historic homelands—in what became the states of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Michigan—to lands west of the Mississippi in current-day Kansas and Oklahoma.

The Tribe reorganized its government under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of 1936 and became officially known as the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. The Tribe is governed by the Business Committee, an elected leadership consisting of a Chief, Second Chief, Secretary-Treasurer, and two Councilpersons. These leaders follow in the footsteps of those before them in the constant struggle to retain our sovereignty and demand our right to self-determination through our status as a self-governing Nation.

In 1999, the Miami Tribe established the Miami Tribe Cultural Resources Office, whose mission is to perpetuate Myaamia cultural identity through efforts to reclaim, restore, revitalize, and preserve. Under this office, we exercise our rights through the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (“NAGPRA”) and actively reclaim the ancestors and cultural objects that have been taken from us.

Today, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma is a strong and vibrant community. We share a common history, but we are not a people trapped in the past. The Tribe works diligently to build on the foundation passed to us by our predecessors. If you have the opportunity to visit us in Miami, Oklahoma, know that you will be greeted as an honored guest with open and generous arms. *Piintikiilo neehi wiitapimiloom* “Come in and sit with us!”

Statement on NAGPRA Compliance

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma is a sovereign tribal government whose inherent authority predates the existence of the United States. Throughout the process of recent NAGPRA rulemaking process, the Tribe has expressed its intent to exercise its sovereign authority in the consultation process, to be expressed through tribal policy. The Miami Tribe views the NAGPRA Regulations as a minimum standard and not as a limiting document.

When engaging in NAGPRA consultation with the Miami Tribe, an institution should expect requests and recommendations that go beyond the minimum standards established by the NAGPRA Regulations. The Tribe believes, and its experience has demonstrated, that these requests are reasonable, lead to more thorough and meaningful consultation, and promote a productive discussion about reasonable solutions to issues that might arise. For the consultation process to be successful, Tribes must have the exclusive right to determine affiliation and express the intent to repatriate their ancestors, regardless of any statements or opinions to the contrary.

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma is committed to the proper and comprehensive application of the consultation process provided by federal law to repatriate our sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony, as well as return our ancestors and their belongings peacefully back to the earth. The Tribe endorses the concept of compliance as the good-faith efforts of institutions to consult with federally recognized Tribes, as stated in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

The Miami Tribe NAGPRA Program believes that relationship-building is vital to the success of the consultation process. The reciprocal investment in relationship-building creates an environment where trust and mutual respect lead to respectful consultation and help to ensure final repatriation outcomes that bring healing and closure to all involved. This work takes time. Each Tribal Nation is unique in identity, government, culture, and language. We encourage all institutions who have not begun to consult with federally recognized Tribes regarding NAGPRA to start as soon as practicable and to be patient and respectful in the process so as to understand the unique cultural identity of the sovereign Nation they are engaging with.

To the new generation of archeologists and collections administrators who recognize the importance of complying with NAGPRA, we offer our assistance in your compliance efforts.

Last revised August 2024

neetaweelintamankwi

Expectations During Consultation

1.1 myaamionki: Place of the Miamis

Northeast Oklahoma is our seat of government, but all lands where the Miami have lived are still referred to as Myaamionki, “Place of the Miamis.” Throughout history, we have experienced extensive movement within the shared region of our homeland. From our emergence place near the southern tip of Lake Michigan, our old footprints extend north into Canada and throughout Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, central and southern Wisconsin, and northern Kentucky. Our ancestors also traveled far beyond this heartland for both trade and war.

Our knowledge and understanding of this timeline and our presence in various regions guide our duty in consultation. When ancestral remains and funerary objects have been removed from the following counties, the Miami Tribe expects to consult in some capacity (Figure 1). Please note that this map is intended to be used by institutions as a visual aid and is subject to change.

Myaamionki Map for NAGPRA Consultation

Our NAGPRA Consultation Map is designed to provide a quick visual reference for museums, universities and federal agencies responsible for consultation on collections from counties within each state within our homeland regions. While the Miami Tribe expects to be notified about collections or inadvertent discoveries in every county that is colored, we do prioritize our consultation based on our 30 plus years of research into our habitation and migration (forced or voluntary) history. The benefits of that research led us to this comprehensive consultation map.

Red Zone (1):

This area represents the most concentrated habitation space of our ancestors throughout time. In consultation, we do expect those ancestors to be affiliated with the Miami and we will advocate for repatriation and legal possession with the intent to bury.

Orange Zone (2):

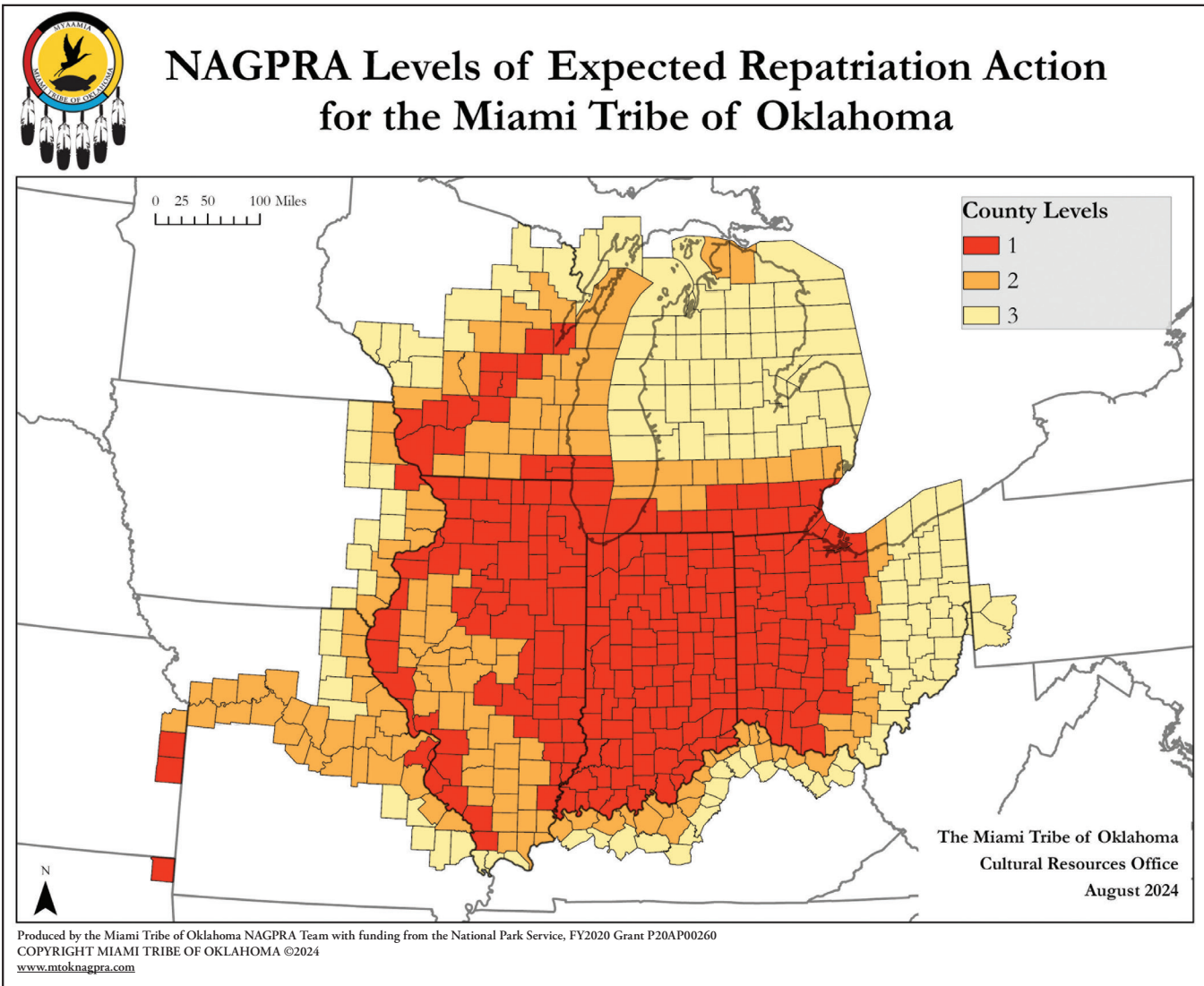
This area represents temporary migration or movement where permanent or long-term villages were constructed. Factors for this expansion include warfare, European intrusion, resource exhaustion and climate issues. Consultation, based on the archeological record available and discussion with other participating tribes, will move to affiliate those ancestors to the Tribe. In this zone, repatriation and legal control for the purposes of burial can be negotiated with other affiliating tribes based on potential reburial location and logistical considerations.

1.1 myaamionki: Place of the Miamis

Yellow Zone (3):

This area represents the farthest known expansion of our tribal existence. This area represents temporary encampment for non-habitation situations, including trade, council fires, war party movements and removal, among other situations. In consultation, we would, based on the archeological record available and discussion with other participating tribes, likely defer to a tribe with a stronger affiliation claim and offer to support their efforts towards reburial of the ancestors.

Within all color zones, the Miami believe that all ancestors should be repatriated and buried respectfully. The Miami will, therefore, affiliate and repatriate any ancestor(s) that remain unclaimed, for any reason, in our ancestral homelands.



Illinois

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma expects to be included in NAGPRA consultations regarding all counties of present-day Illinois.

◆ Adams	◆ DuPage	◆ Jo Daviess	◆ McLean	◆ Scott
◆ Alexander	◆ Edgar	◆ Johnson	◆ Menard	◆ Shelby
◆ Bond	◆ Edwards	◆ Kane	◆ Mercer	◆ St. Clair
◆ Boone	◆ Effingham	◆ Kankakee	◆ Monroe	◆ Stark
◆ Brown	◆ Fayette	◆ Kendall	◆ Montgomery	◆ Stephenson
◆ Bureau	◆ Ford	◆ Knox	◆ Morgan	◆ Tazewell
◆ Calhoun	◆ Franklin	◆ Lake	◆ Moultrie	◆ Union
◆ Carroll	◆ Fulton	◆ LaSalle	◆ Ogle	◆ Vermilion
◆ Cass	◆ Gallatin	◆ Lawrence	◆ Peoria	◆ Wabash
◆ Champaign	◆ Greene	◆ Lee	◆ Perry	◆ Warren
◆ Christian	◆ Grundy	◆ Livingston	◆ Piatt	◆ Washington
◆ Clark	◆ Hamilton	◆ Logan	◆ Pike	◆ Wayne
◆ Clay	◆ Hancock	◆ Macon	◆ Pope	◆ White
◆ Clinton	◆ Hardin	◆ Macoupin	◆ Pulaski	◆ Whiteside
◆ Coles	◆ Henderson	◆ Madison	◆ Putnam	◆ Will
◆ Cook	◆ Henry	◆ Marion	◆ Randolph	◆ Williamson
◆ Crawford	◆ Iroquois	◆ Marshall	◆ Richland	◆ Winnebago
◆ Cumberland	◆ Jackson	◆ Mason	◆ Rock Island	◆ Woodford
◆ DeKalb	◆ Jasper	◆ Massac	◆ Saline	
◆ DeWitt	◆ Jefferson	◆ McDonough	◆ Sangamon	
◆ Douglas	◆ Jersey	◆ McHenry	◆ Schuyler	

Indiana

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma expects to be included in NAGPRA consultations regarding all counties of present-day Indiana.

◆ Adams	◆ Elkhart	◆ Jefferson	◆ Ohio	◆ Sullivan
◆ Allen	◆ Fayette	◆ Jennings	◆ Orange	◆ Switzerland
◆ Bartholomew	◆ Floyd	◆ Johnson	◆ Owen	◆ Tippecanoe
◆ Benton	◆ Fountain	◆ Knox	◆ Parke	◆ Tipton
◆ Blackford	◆ Franklin	◆ Kosciusko	◆ Perry	◆ Union
◆ Boone	◆ Fulton	◆ LaGrange	◆ Pike	◆ Vanderburgh
◆ Brown	◆ Gibson	◆ Lake	◆ Porter	◆ Vermillion
◆ Carroll	◆ Grant	◆ LaPorte	◆ Posey	◆ Vigo
◆ Cass	◆ Greene	◆ Lawrence	◆ Pulaski	◆ Wabash
◆ Clark	◆ Hamilton	◆ Madison	◆ Putnam	◆ Warren
◆ Clay	◆ Hancock	◆ Marion	◆ Randolph	◆ Warrick
◆ Clinton	◆ Harrison	◆ Marshall	◆ Ripley	◆ Washington
◆ Crawford	◆ Hendricks	◆ Martin	◆ Rush	◆ Wayne
◆ Daviess	◆ Henry	◆ Miami	◆ St. Joseph	◆ Wells
◆ Dearborn	◆ Howard	◆ Monroe	◆ Scott	◆ White
◆ Decatur	◆ Huntington	◆ Montgomery	◆ Shelby	◆ Whitley
◆ DeKalb	◆ Jackson	◆ Morgan	◆ Spencer	
◆ Delaware	◆ Jasper	◆ Newton	◆ Starke	
◆ Dubois	◆ Jay	◆ Noble	◆ Steuben	

Iowa

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma expects to be included in NAGPRA consultations regarding the following counties of present-day Iowa.

◆ Allamakee	◆ Clinton	◆ Fayette	◆ Jones	◆ Scott
◆ Buchanan	◆ Delaware	◆ Henry	◆ Lee	◆ Van Buren
◆ Cedar	◆ Des Moines	◆ Jackson	◆ Louisa	◆ Washington
◆ Clayton	◆ Dubuque	◆ Johnson	◆ Muscatine	◆ Winneshiek

Kansas

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma expects to be included in NAGPRA consultations regarding the following counties in present-day Kansas.

◆ Johnson	◆ Linn	◆ Miami		
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Kentucky

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma expects to be included in NAGPRA consultations regarding the following counties of present-day Kentucky.

◆ Boone	◆ Fleming	◆ Hart	◆ McLean	◆ Rowan
◆ Bracken	◆ Gallatin	◆ Henderson	◆ Meade	◆ Shelby
◆ Breckinridge	◆ Grant	◆ Henry	◆ Nelson	◆ Spencer
◆ Bullitt	◆ Grayson	◆ Jefferson	◆ Ohio	◆ Trimble
◆ Campbell	◆ Greenup	◆ Kenton	◆ Oldham	◆ Union
◆ Carroll	◆ Hancock	◆ Larue	◆ Owen	◆ Webster
◆ Carter	◆ Hardin	◆ Lewis	◆ Pendleton	
◆ Daviess	◆ Harrison	◆ Mason	◆ Robertson	

Michigan

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma expects to be included in NAGPRA consultations regarding the following counties of present-day Michigan.

◆ Alcona	◆ Clinton	◆ Jackson	◆ Menominee	◆ Presque Isle
◆ Allegan	◆ Crawford	◆ Kalamazoo	◆ Midland	◆ Roscommon
◆ Alpena	◆ Delta	◆ Kalkaska	◆ Missaukee	◆ Saginaw
◆ Antrim	◆ Eaton	◆ Kent	◆ Monroe	◆ St. Clair
◆ Arenac	◆ Emmet	◆ Lake	◆ Montcalm	◆ St. Joseph
◆ Barry	◆ Genesee	◆ Lapeer	◆ Montmorency	◆ Sanilac
◆ Bay	◆ Gladwin	◆ Leelanau	◆ Muskegon	◆ Schoolcraft
◆ Benzie	◆ Grand Traverse	◆ Lenawee	◆ Newaygo	◆ Shiawassee
◆ Berrien	◆ Gratiot	◆ Livingston	◆ Oakland	◆ Tuscola
◆ Branch	◆ Hillsdale	◆ Luce	◆ Oceana	◆ Van Buren
◆ Calhoun	◆ Huron	◆ Mackinac	◆ Ogemaw	◆ Washtenaw
◆ Cass	◆ Ingham	◆ Macomb	◆ Osceola	◆ Wayne
◆ Charlevoix	◆ Ionia	◆ Manistee	◆ Oscoda	◆ Wexford
◆ Cheboygan	◆ Iosco	◆ Mason	◆ Otsego	
◆ Clare	◆ Isabella	◆ Mecosta	◆ Ottawa	

Missouri

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma expects to be included in NAGPRA consultations regarding the following counties of present-day Missouri.

◆ Audrain	◆ Cole	◆ Lewis	◆ Pike	◆ St. Louis, city
◆ Bollinger	◆ Cooper	◆ Lincoln	◆ Ralls	◆ St. Louis, co.
◆ Boone	◆ Franklin	◆ Madison	◆ Ray	◆ St. Genevieve
◆ Callaway	◆ Gasconade	◆ Marion	◆ Saline	◆ Warren
◆ Cape Girardeau	◆ Howard	◆ Moniteau	◆ Scotland	◆ Washington
◆ Carroll	◆ Jackson	◆ Monroe	◆ Scott	
◆ Chariton	◆ Jefferson	◆ Montgomery	◆ Shelby	
◆ Clark	◆ Knox	◆ Osage	◆ St. Charles	
◆ Clay	◆ Lafayette	◆ Perry	◆ St. Francois	

Ohio

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma expects to be included in NAGPRA consultations regarding the following counties of present-day Ohio.

◆ Adams	◆ Darke	◆ Hocking	◆ Miami	◆ Scioto
◆ Allen	◆ Defiance	◆ Holmes	◆ Monroe	◆ Seneca
◆ Ashland	◆ Delaware	◆ Huron	◆ Montgomery	◆ Shelby
◆ Ashtabula	◆ Erie	◆ Jackson	◆ Morgan	◆ Stark
◆ Athens	◆ Fairfield	◆ Jefferson	◆ Morrow	◆ Summit
◆ Auglaize	◆ Fayette	◆ Knox	◆ Muskingum	◆ Trumbull
◆ Belmont	◆ Franklin	◆ Lake	◆ Nobel	◆ Tuscarawas
◆ Brown	◆ Fulton	◆ Lawrence	◆ Ottawa	◆ Union
◆ Butler	◆ Gallia	◆ Licking	◆ Paulding	◆ Van Wert
◆ Carroll	◆ Geauga	◆ Logan	◆ Perry	◆ Vinton
◆ Champaign	◆ Greene	◆ Lorain	◆ Pickaway	◆ Warren
◆ Clark	◆ Gurnsey	◆ Lucas	◆ Pike	◆ Washington
◆ Clermont	◆ Hamilton	◆ Madison	◆ Portage	◆ Wayne
◆ Clinton	◆ Hancock	◆ Mahoning	◆ Preble	◆ Williams
◆ Columbiana	◆ Hardin	◆ Marion	◆ Putnam	◆ Wood
◆ Coshocton	◆ Harrison	◆ Medina	◆ Richland	◆ Wyandot
◆ Crawford	◆ Henry	◆ Meigs	◆ Ross	
◆ Cuyahoga	◆ Highland	◆ Mercer	◆ Sandusky	

Oklahoma

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma expects to be included in NAGPRA consultations regarding **◆ Ottawa County** in present-day Oklahoma.

Pennsylvania

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma expects to be included in NAGPRA consultations regarding the following counties of present-day Pennsylvania.

◆ Allegheny	◆ Beaver	◆ Washington		
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West Virginia

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma expects to be included in NAGPRA consultations regarding the following counties of present-day Pennsylvania.

◆ Brooke	◆ Hancock			
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Wisconsin

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma expects to be included in NAGPRA consultations regarding the following counties of present-day Wisconsin.

◆ Adams	◆ Forest	◆ La Crosse	◆ Oconto	◆ Trempealeau
◆ Brown	◆ Grant	◆ Lafayette	◆ Outagamie	◆ Vernon
◆ Buffalo	◆ Green	◆ Langlade	◆ Ozaukee	◆ Walworth
◆ Calumet	◆ Green Lake	◆ Manitowoc	◆ Portage	◆ Washington
◆ Columbia	◆ Iowa	◆ Marathon	◆ Racine	◆ Waukesha
◆ Crawford	◆ Jackson	◆ Marinette	◆ Richland	◆ Waupaca
◆ Dane	◆ Jefferson	◆ Marquette	◆ Rock	◆ Waushara
◆ Dodge	◆ Juneau	◆ Menominee	◆ Sauk	◆ Winnebago
◆ Door	◆ Kenosha	◆ Milwaukee	◆ Shawano	◆ Wood
◆ Fond du Lac	◆ Kewaunee	◆ Monroe	◆ Sheboygan	

1.2 Consulting with Third Parties

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma NAGPRA Team includes the Cultural Resources Officer, NAGPRA Program Director, and Tribal Legal Counsel, who are appointed by Tribal Leadership, as well as a Consulting Archaeologist and a Tribal Museum Representative. Our commitment to consultation includes an investment in the power of relationships. We strive to create lasting, meaningful partnerships with institutions through our work, both during consultation and after repatriations are complete. These partnerships bring healing through the closure of the repatriation process and have led to research collaborations and lasting friendships.

The Miami Tribe's experience demonstrates that relationship-building efforts are hindered when third-party facilitators interfere with the consultation process between sovereign tribes and the institutions that possess our ancestors, their belongings (i.e., funerary objects), and our sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony. When the NAGPRA Team cannot work directly and exclusively with an institution, both the Tribe and the institution are deprived of opportunities to communicate cultural information and important curatorial notes that are pertinent to the repatriation process. The value of gaining knowledge and understanding about the ancestors and their funerary objects, as well as the story of their disturbance, is immeasurable both to the institution and to the Tribe. Further, missed opportunities to create genuine, organic partnerships are counted as a loss. Once repatriation is complete and the third party leaves, a vacuum appears between a tribe and an institution that should have been filled with the foundations for a meaningful partnership.

Furthermore, when the NAGPRA Team cannot consult directly with institutions, the significance of repatriation is greatly diminished. When institutions employ third parties to work on their behalf, they do not have to directly face Tribal representatives and are therefore not held to the same level of accountability as those institutions who work directly with Tribes.

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma understands that institutions using third-party facilitators often do so with good intentions as they seek to comply with the Act. Nevertheless, the Tribe objects to the use of such facilitators and the ways in which this avenue harms tribes in our duty of respectful repatriation. If an institution engages a third party to facilitate consultation, the Miami Tribe NAGPRA Team still expects and will actively seek to work directly with institutional representatives at each meeting throughout the consultation process. Furthermore, our repatriation closure documents (Request to Repatriate, Transfer of Control, Temporary Curation Agreement, etc.) all require the signatures of the institution with whom the repatriation has been completed.

1.3 Beginning Consultation

Letter of Consent

Under Section 10.1(d)(3) of the NAGPRA Regulations, institutions must obtain free and informed consent from the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma prior to allowing “any exhibition of, access to, or research on human remains or cultural items” that are connected or potentially connected to the Tribe. Research includes, but is not limited to, “any study, analysis, examination, or other means of acquiring or preserving information about human remains or cultural items.”

Consent to Inventory Letter

Institutions may also request a Consent to Inventory Letter from the Tribe to allow for complete, itemized inventories that are required for consultation. While not a requirement of the NAGPRA regulations, we believe that a full, itemized inventory is essential for consultation as well as for determining affiliation.

Contact Information

Institutions may submit a request for letters of consent to NAGPRA Director Scott Willard via email to swillard@miamination.com or by mail to:

*Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Cultural Resources Office
Scott Willard—NAGPRA Director
P.O. Box 1326
Miami, OK 74355*

1.4 The Consultation Process

Consultation between institutions and tribes is the most important step in NAGPRA compliance. Determinations on affiliation, repatriation, and transfer of control can only happen through the free exchange of information and discussion of options in consultation meetings. While acknowledging the benefits of modern technology through video conferencing, the Miami Tribe believes in the enhanced effectiveness of in-person consultation whenever possible.

The act of consultation is generally regarded as a formulaic process that can be repeated from institution to institution. Allowances can always be made on an institutional basis for agenda, but the general consultation meeting format is as follows:

Introductions and Invocation

The meeting begins with introductions by the institution, followed by tribal representatives. If the tribes desire, an invocation is delivered by a tribal elder or another tribal representative authorized by their tribe to offer invocations. An invocation to end the consultation is often requested if an invocation starts the consultation. In the case of video consultations, it is recommended that the institution implements a roll call to ensure participants do not talk over each other while giving introductions, as well as to make sure no representative is left out.

Discussion on the Collections Selected for Consultation

Institutions should make all information relevant to the collections available to the tribes in the meeting. Site history, archeology history, detailed inventory review, research and reports (published or unpublished) should be discussed. Disclosures of destructive testing and analysis and the recovery of test samples, the possibility of split collections with other institutions and their potential unification, and potential hazardous substances present on the collections should also be discussed.

Visuals (e.g., maps, site illustrations, archeological drawings) are helpful to provide orientation and understanding of the context of the collection. However, photos of human remains and funerary objects should not be displayed unless a tribe(s) requests such photos. See pages 21-23 for more about the kinds of information the Miami Tribe will request during consultation.

Discussion of Proper Care and Handling of Collections

Information regarding the status and condition of the collections should be provided to the tribes, followed by a discussion on best practices for the care of the collections. This includes

1.4 The Consultation Process

specific cultural requirements, which vary from tribe to tribe. See pages 25-27 for more about how the Miami Tribe requests NAGPRA items be cared for during consultation.

Next Steps, Further Discussions

In most cases, determinations on affiliation and repatriation do not get resolved with one meeting. Options for future consultation, including in-person meetings, can be planned at this point. In-person consultation serves multiple purposes. It allows for easier collaboration and discussion amongst the participating tribes that video conferencing inhibits. It also allows for physical review of the collections, which may aid in affiliation determination. Finally, in-person consultation helps to facilitate the relationship-building process that we regard as very important for future collaboration with the institution.

For in-person consultations, we ask that institutions notify the Tribe ahead of time as to whether ancestors will be in the same building as the consultation meeting. The Tribe may also request a tour of the institution's NAGPRA-related facilities.

1.5 Requested Information

Under Section 10.9(a) and Section 10.10(a) of the NAGPRA Regulations, institutions must provide the following information in their summaries and inventories:

- **Provenience/geographical location** by county or state where the remains and/or associated funerary objects were removed (inventory) and where the potential cultural items originate (summary)
- **Acquisition history** of the human remains, associated funerary objects, and potential cultural items
- Any potentially hazardous substances used to treat any of the human remains, associated funerary objects, or cultural items, if known

This section also requires institutions to provide “other information” that would be relevant for identifying cultural affiliation and for determining any object as a cultural item (unassociated funerary object, sacred object, or object of cultural patrimony). The Miami Tribe may request copies (preferably digital) of the following information from institutions:

Provenience and acquisition history

Academic/CRM Excavations

- Site numbers and county information
- MNI, AFO, and UFO counts
- PI archeologist and university affiliation (if other than consulting institution)
- Dates of the excavations
- Cultural phase/time period

Private donations

How and when the items came to be in the collections

- Cultural phase/time period
- The name of the donor, if known
- History of the items prior to acquisition
- Whether or not items that were part of this acquisition but were deaccessioned and are now no longer in your collections, and if so, the name of the said institution or private location in which they were transferred

1.5 Requested Information

Academic research

We ask institutions to provide copies of published and unpublished research when available and relevant to the collections on which we are consulting. This research includes but is not limited to:

- Journal articles
- Published books and book chapters
- MA theses and PhD dissertations
- Unpublished research papers
- Testing history and lab reports
- Reference materials, e.g., bibliographies of materials discussing the site(s)
- Any research conducted by students who were given access to NAGPRA items for their classwork

Archaeological work

- Field notes, records, and maps of the entire site excavated, not just those pertaining to the features from which NAGPRA items were removed
- Photographs, maps, or sketches taken prior to when the remains and/or items were removed, if available
- Contract archaeology reports discussing the site(s), if available
- Locations of any soil samples or other samples taken from the graves at the time of excavation

Osteological work

If an osteologist has examined the remains, we ask that institutions provide their report(s). When possible, we would like to know the sex and age of the individual whose remains were examined. We also ask that institutions have an osteologist check their faunal collections to determine whether any human remains are co-mingled in those collections. Furthermore, we ask for the following information:

Locations of any samples taken from the human remains post-excavation (e.g., DNA, dental, strontium, etc.)

- The name of the osteologist and their current institution affiliation
- Locations of any remains/samples left after destructive analysis, if performed
- Knowledge of pesticide use
- The type of labeling on the remains (i.e., written directly on and/or with ID tags)

1.5 Requested Information

Information regarding other collections, institutions

- If the items on which we are consulting came from an archeological site excavation, please provide us with any information you have regarding other institutions that also have or may have collections from the same site.
- Please provide information regarding other units/departments or branch campuses of your institution that have collections of human remains, funerary objects, or cultural items.
- If an institution has a teaching/education collection, please provide an inventory of its contents to assist the Miami Tribe in determining whether it needs to be included in consultation.
- Whether or not any potential NAGPRA items are currently on display, on loan to another institution, or in a travelling/satellite exhibit
- The Miami Tribe considers archival/two-dimensional materials to be eligible for repatriation as objects of cultural patrimony, as defined by Subpart A Section 10.2 of the NAGPRA Regulations. The Tribe has successfully repatriated such items. We ask that institutions provide us with a list of archival/two-dimensional materials related to/affiliated with the Miami Tribe.

aahkohkeelintamoowaaci

Caring for NAGPRA Items

2.1 Object Handling

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma asks that institutions physically handle NAGPRA items as little as possible. We are particularly concerned that human remains cannot be handled because of both their fragile nature and cultural sensitivity—those individuals have already been disturbed from their resting places, and we want to limit any further disruption. We also recommend that women who are pregnant or menstruating do not physically handle human remains or funerary objects for their own well-being.

Offerings

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma prefers that institutional staff do not place outside materials with NAGPRA items. This includes offerings of tobacco, food, and water. We acknowledge that this may conflict with other tribal nations' preferences, and we will work on a case-by-case basis with tribal representatives and institutional staff to create a storage solution that works for all parties. The Miami Tribe also prefers that institutional staff do not keep or use food, drink, or tobacco in proximity to NAGPRA items, including during any transport of NAGPRA items.

Photography

The determination to ask institutional staff to take photos of NAGPRA items for the Tribe's own internal records will be made on a case-by-case basis. However, if photographs have already been taken, please notify the Miami Tribe; the Tribe will request copies of them. At the time of repatriation, the Tribe will request that all photography and drawings (new and old) be provided to the Tribe and may request that no duplicates or negatives be retained by the institution.

2.2 Storage

Reunification

If the remains of an individual ancestor are physically scattered throughout an institution's storage (e.g. in separate boxes), we ask that all those remains of the ancestor be reunified and stored together. We also ask that associated funerary objects be stored with their respective ancestor. We prefer they be stored in the same box, but, if this cannot be accomplished because of constraints on storage space, we ask that they be stored next to each other.

Storage materials

The Miami Tribe asks that institutions do not rehouse a collection unless it requires immediate rehousing because the storage containers (e.g., boxes, bags) in which NAGPRA items are stored are so extensively damaged or so worn as to no longer be capable of securely housing the items. The Miami Tribe does not condone rehousing NAGPRA collections solely to make use of grant funding, to accommodate institutional storage issues (e.g., new boxes would better fit on shelving), or because containers are "old." If containers are in such disrepair that items can no longer be securely housed (e.g., boxes are wet from a leak or have lost integrity and have collapsed), then those containers that are damaged should be replaced; however, the entire collection may not need to be rehoused.

When rehousing a collection or parts thereof whose original containers are no longer viable, or when housing a new collection, the Miami Tribe requests that acid-free paper bags, tissue, and boxes—not plastic—be used. We further ask that institutions not dispose of the former containers if those containers and related storage materials (e.g., paper wrapping, plastic bags, foam supports) have been in contact with human remains. The Miami Tribe will also repatriate those old containers and related storage materials if they have been in contact with human remains.

The Miami Tribe requests that institutions disclose whether storage materials have been treated in the past with pesticides (including arsenic). Further, if the institution is aware that the NAGPRA items themselves have also been subject to direct treatment with toxic substances, the institution must inform the Miami Tribe regarding the nature of the substances, how they were applied, and when, as stated in Section 10.9(a)(1)(v) and Section 10.10(a)(6) of the NAGPRA Regulations.

Labels

The Tribe requests that institutions keep all original labels on/attached to the NAGPRA items until after repatriation is completed or that these labels be scanned and provided to the Tribe in a digital format.

2.3 Access

Consent

Under Section 10.1(d)(3) of the NAGPRA Regulations, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma must be consulted prior to an affiliated collection or object's use in exhibition, research, or teaching to allow the Tribe to assist institutions with recommendations regarding an object's potential NAGPRA status. This will also provide the Tribe with opportunities to consult upon and/or contribute to the interpretation of objects for future exhibition and research purposes if said objects have, after consultation, been determined to not be subject to NAGPRA. Any human remains or cultural items, as defined by the law, cannot be exhibited, researched, or accessed unless tribal consent is given. If an object's affiliation and/or origin is unknown or in question, the Tribe recommends institutions refrain from using the object until consultation occurs to ensure compliance.

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma recommends that institutions create an overarching NAGPRA policy. This ensures that all departments are responsible for treating human remains, funerary objects, objects of cultural patrimony, and sacred objects with respect, while also providing ramifications for any internal violations.

Exhibits

Please remove all NAGPRA items from display and place them in appropriate storage. Additionally, we require that all photos of those NAGPRA items that are currently being presented to the public in digital format (e.g., online exhibits, social media posts, websites, an institution's public-facing collections database) be removed. We further ask that print materials that contain NAGPRA items no longer be distributed and that they be destroyed (e.g., shredded or recycled).

Confidentiality

The consultation process, from the initial meeting with the Miami Tribe to the reburial, should be kept confidential. Institutions should consult with their legal counsels to determine the level of protection that can be afforded to the consultation process. We ask that all voluntary releases of information (including tribal contact information or details of consultation conversations) be prohibited. Individuals from institutions who are invited to attend the burial process are restricted from revealing burial locations publicly or privately.

Media

Press releases are not permitted without tribal permission. The Miami Tribe requests to be

2.3 Access

notified regarding any inquiry, whether from press or public, before information regarding Miami Tribe consultation matters is released to the requesting party. This includes any inquiries that occur post-repatriation.

2.4 Post-Consultation Stewardship

Temporary Curation Agreement

If the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma is unable to immediately remove NAGPRA items from an institution immediately upon the repatriation of those items, the Tribe and either the institution that repatriated the items or another institution may sign a **Temporary Curation Agreement**.*

This agreement places the right of temporary possession of repatriated items with the institution. This agreement provides for the secure storage of NAGPRA items on behalf of the Miami Tribe. Such an agreement does not allow for any form of research, testing, or handling. Furthermore, this agreement does not dissolve the Miami Tribe's right of control to the repatriated items.

**Sample supplied at mtoknagpra.com.*

Release of Temporary Curation Agreement

When the Miami Tribe takes physical possession of the repatriated NAGPRA items, the Tribe and institution then sign a **Release of Temporary Curation Agreement**.* This acknowledges the final physical transfer of the NAGPRA items from the institution to the Miami Tribe. Upon signing, the institution acknowledges that their right of temporary possession is permanently extinguished, leaving them free of any continuing responsibility.

**Sample supplied at mtoknagpra.com.*

Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Contact Information

NAGPRA Consultation

Scott Willard, NAGPRA Director, NAGPRA Committee Vice Chair

swillard@miamination.com Office: (918) 541-2178 Cell: (417) 317-3465

NAGPRA Committee

Julie Olds, Cultural Resources Officer, NAGPRA Committee Chair

jolds@miamination.com Cell: (918) 541-3131

Scott Willard, NAGPRA Director, NAGPRA Committee Vice Chair

swillard@miamination.com Office: (918) 541-2178 Cell: (417) 317-3465

Robin Lash, NAGPRA Committee Member

rlash@miamination.com

Official Miami Tribe of Oklahoma NAGPRA Contacts as listed with National NAGPRA:

*Douglas Lankford, Chief of
the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma*
dlankford@miamination.com

*Julie Olds, Cultural
Resources Officer, NAGPRA
Committee Chair*
jolds@miamination.com
Cell: (918) 541-3131

*Scott Willard, NAGPRA
Director, NAGPRA
Committee Vice Chair*
swillard@miamination.com
Office: (918) 541-2178
Cell: (417) 317-3465

Mailing Address

Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Cultural Resources Office
Scott Willard—NAGPRA Director
P.O. Box 1326
Miami, OK 74355





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