



**Native
& Strong
Lifeline**



**988
PRESS 4**



Washington State Department of

HEALTH

988 and Tribal Crisis Coordination Protocols

Tribal Crisis Coordination Protocols

The Tribal Crisis Coordination Protocols are a Government-to-Government process between the Health Care Authority, Department of Health, and each Tribe.

The protocols will establish procedures for the ways non-Tribal crisis care organizations can coordinate and provide services on Tribal reservation lands.

The Tribal Crisis Coordination Protocols include a description of the procedures and processes for:

- Accessing Tribal lands to provide services, including services from Designated Crisis Responders (DCRs) and mobile crisis teams.
- Notifying Tribal authorities when crisis services are provided on Tribal land, especially on weekends, holidays, or after business hours. This includes who to notify and when.
- Coordination between Tribal mental health and substance use disorder treatment providers and crisis care organizations, including 988 Lifeline crisis centers.
- Notification when a DCR is considering whether to detain someone for involuntary commitment.
- Transporting people to non-Tribal lands for involuntary commitment evaluation and treatment, if the evaluation and treatment can't take place on Tribal land.

When a help-seeker says they are Native, Indigenous, or American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) or 988 Lifeline crisis counselors have reason to believe a help-seeker is AI/AN, **and** the help-seeker has given their consent, 988 Crisis Center Staff may implement further care coordination for them with their Indian Health Care Provider.

Depending on the help-seeker's Tribal services eligibility, location where they receive services, and Tribal affiliation, 988 crisis center staff may:

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- Connect them to the Native and Strong Lifeline.
- Coordinate any follow-up outpatient care with the Indian Health Care Provider contacts outlined in the protocols.
- Transfer them to 911 or Tribal Police.
- Refer them to a Regional Crisis Line, Tribal DCR, or Tribal Mobile Crisis Team.

When?

988 Lifeline crisis centers will begin incorporating Tribal crisis coordination protocols on July 1, 2024.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and the Native and Strong Lifeline

People experiencing a mental health crisis can call or text 988 or chat online to reach a trained crisis counselor. A mental health crisis may include thoughts of suicide, substance use concerns, or other emotional distress. People worried about a loved one can also get support from 988.

If you call 988 from a Washington area code, you can choose option 4 to connect to the Native and Strong Lifeline. The Native and Strong Lifeline is the first program of its kind in the nation dedicated to serving American Indian and Alaska Native people. This line is available for all Native people in Washington.

Calls are answered by Native crisis counselors who are Tribal members and descendants closely tied to their communities. These crisis counselors have training in crisis intervention and support, with special emphasis on cultural and traditional practices related to healing.

Contact Information

If you would like more information or have questions or comments about the Tribal Crisis Coordination Protocols, please contact Beth Schuurmans at Beth.Schuurmans@doh.wa.gov or Lucilla Mendoza at Lucilla.Mendoza@hca.wa.gov.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email doh.information@doh.wa.gov.

