

A photograph of a smoldering bundle of dried plant matter, possibly cedar, resting in a shallow, light-colored shell on a pebbly beach. The bundle is secured with white and blue ties. Wisps of white smoke rise from the bundle. The background is a blurred beach scene with a dark log and some greenery.

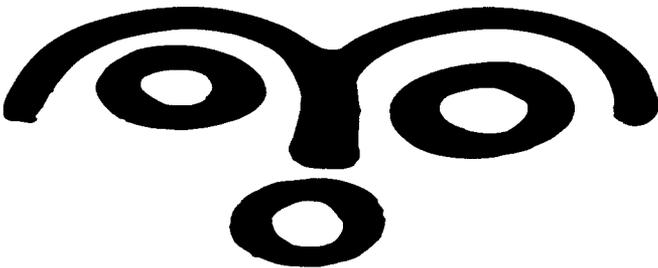
INMATE RESOURCE GUIDE
SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

The Squaxin Island Tribe created this handbook to answer questions for incarcerated members of the Squaxin Island community and their family, both during incarceration and upon release. The Tribe wants to help give direction to the incarcerated person and strengthen positive connections with the Squaxin Island community. This handbook summarizes basic information about available resources and provides contact information for further assistance.

Many of these services are available through the Tribe's Family Services Department, whose mission is:

“To strengthen families through services promoting family safety, wellness, and self-sufficiency with respect for tribal culture and tradition.”

The Department includes ICW (Indian Child Welfare), emergency services, behavioral health services, prevention and wellness, Elder's meals program (everyone included), childcare, domestic violence advocacy, and TANF (Tribes Assisting Native Families - www.spipa.org/tanf.html). These programs are further explained in this booklet.



I. STAYING CONNECTED to the Squaxin Island community while in state prison

Release for funerals and deathbed visits

If a family member dies or is very sick, you may be able to attend a funeral or a deathbed visit. You should ask prison officials how to submit a request. Please be aware that you or your family must reimburse DOC in advance for certain costs.

DOC's current policy can be found at:

www.doc.wa.gov/policies/showFile.aspx?name=560200.

The Tribe and DOC have signed an agreement that allows tribal police to escort you at a funeral or deathbed visit within the Squaxin Island community and may defray some costs.

Your religious rights

Your family, including children, may be allowed to attend tribal ceremonies in the prison. And, you may be able to participate in sweat lodges and ceremonial tobacco. DOC policy makes specific allowance that incarcerated persons will be allowed to have "individual religious items" that include beads, hand drums, pipes, and eagle feathers.

Specifics of what is allowed can be found in DOC 560.200:

www.doc.wa.gov/policies/showFile.aspx?name=560200.

DOC employees have reportedly been given training on the sacred nature of these items and their handling requirements.

Visits with Children

The primary role of Squaxin Island Tribe ICW (Indian Child Welfare) is to provide services to families in crisis that assist in keeping families together. DOC does not limit visits with children. Members with open ICW cases may apply for monthly visit in prison if in full compliance with court orders, including orders regarding treatment, evaluation, and education. Approval for visitation through ICW and the location of the prison will be determined by case by case basis. Contact your ICW case worker for the application process, or contact Family Services at: (360) 432 -3995.

Behavioral Health Services

A Behavioral Health therapist may be willing to go into the prison for counseling sessions, and to establish a relationship to help guide you in a positive direction when you are released. Approval is on a case by case basis, in part depending on where the prison is located.

Receive the Klah-Che-Min Newsletter

You can stay connected to the Squaxin Community by receiving the monthly newsletter. Contact the Information Services, Applications Developer (360) 426-9781 to put your name and address on the mailing list (please let the department know your approximate release date, so it can update the database).

Additional opportunities

DOC maintains an online guide for friends and families. This guide is important, as it will give you direction and rules for visitation, mail, store, personal property, health and dental services, transfers, education, and more. Read it carefully and keep it in case you need to refer back to it. DOC also has a website that answers Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for families and friends of incarcerated persons: <http://www.doc.wa.gov/family/default.asp>. And, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has a guide to state services for families affected by incarceration: www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/Publications/22-1288.pdf.

II. MANAGING YOUR MONEY while in state prison

All deposits

State law requires an incarcerated person to deposit all funds that come into the prison in an Offender Trust Account. Incarcerated persons cannot bank through the mail or make monetary transactions except through their Offender Trust

Account. All of your deposits, including earnings, gratuities, and incentive pay are subject to deductions with few exceptions. The only limitation on the total amount of the deductions is the requirement that DOC leave enough money in an individual's account to meet the "indigency standard." The "indigency standard" is only \$10.00. In other words, except for money that is exempt (discussed later), the DOC can deduct all of an incarcerated persons earnings and deposits except for \$10.00.

Different state laws set different percentage deductions from different funds, in categories that include: public safety and education; victim compensation; child support; money owed to Washington courts; inmate savings sub-accounts; reimbursement for cost of incarceration; and reimbursement for costs of personal hygiene items.

Exempting earnings and deposits from deductions

DOC can deduct virtually all deposits at prison unless the money is from a federally protected fund, legal settlement or award; or lease payments from Indian trust land, or if you direct money to certain "sub-accounts."

Sub-Accounts

You can avoid some of DOC's deductions on some of your money, and make positive changes, by asking that money be put into certain "sub-accounts." Important sub-accounts exist for education or vocational programs and post-secondary education degree programs. There is also a postal sub-account and a medical sub-account. For the medical sub-account, you can only direct money there if you have requested a certain treatment and the prison's Health Authority approves it. For more on how this works, go to DOC Policy 200.000, which can be found at:
www.doc.wa.gov/family/sendmoney.asp.

Your per capita and tribal enterprise distributions will not go to one of the sub-accounts.

What happens to my per capita while I'm in prison?

As described above, DOC takes a portion of any money sent to you while in prison. For per capita payments, you can avoid that reduction by waiting until you are released to receive the payments, or by asking the Tribe to send your payments to another person on your behalf. Be aware, however, that if you direct the Tribe to send them to another person (spouse, family member, friend, or whoever you name), the Tribe is not responsible for how that person handles your funds, and will not replace funds that you feel are misspent. Any problems that arise will be between you and the person you have named.

So, while incarcerated, you have two choices for the timing of your payments:

1. You can receive them each month on the Tribe's regular schedule
OR
2. You can receive them, along with interest, after you are released.

During incarceration, you also have two choices concerning where your payments are sent if you choose not to have the Tribe hold them until you are released:

1. The Tribe can mail them to you where you are incarcerated,
OR
2. The Tribe can mail them to someone on your behalf at a different address.

The Tribe will need two forms filled out: (1) an instruction form; and (2) a limited power of attorney. You can get these forms from (and return them to) the Squaxin Island Finance Department, 10 SE Squaxin Lane, Shelton, WA 98584. You may call or write to have a form mailed to you (360) 426-9781.



III. SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE RESOURCES available to families during and/or after your incarceration

While incarcerated, your children or family members may continue to receive support from the Tribe. The following are a few of the services your family may qualify for. To contact any of the following Departments please call (360) 426-9781, and ask to speak with Kathy Block.

Emergency Services

Emergency Services can include help with utilities, rent, food, etc., on an emergency basis.

Tribes Assisting Native Families (TANF)

TANF is an employment and training program that provides assistance for low income families with children and assistance for children in relative placement homes. The purpose of TANF is the promotion of family self-sufficiency. Services may include vocational/employment training, GED assistance, driver license assistance, job readiness, work experience, or assistance to support the removal of barriers within a family. To qualify for TANF a family must have a member of a federally recognized tribe; live in the four county service area of Mason, Thurston, Kitsap, and Pierce counties; have children or are in the last trimester of a pregnancy; and meet the low income standard. Some incarcerated individuals may not be eligible for all services, contact TANF for details (360) 432-3996.



Northwest Indian Treatment Center

Located in Elma, Washington, NWITC is a 45-day program that provides residential alcohol and drug treatment to a primarily Native American population from Washington, Oregon and Idaho. It received national accreditation in January 1998 and was recognized by the reviewers as one of the best residential programs in the nation.

The Elders Program

The Elders program provides lunch on Mondays, Tuesday and Thursdays and dinner on Wednesday. If you are over the age 55 your meals are free, under the age 55 there is a charge of \$3.

Domestic Violence Prevention Program

This program provides service to victims of domestic violence. Those in need of referrals to services, domestic violence assessments, and conditions of release should contact Behavioral Health.

Employment Opportunities

Upon release, you could be eligible for employment through the Squaxin Island Tribe, Island Enterprises and Little Creek Casino Resort (and Salish Cliffs).

Squaxin Island Tribe, Island Enterprises, and Little Creek Casino will identify the risk associated with the position. The Human Resources Department will make a determination whether you are qualified for the position, and process the application. All three entities have employment opportunities for all Tribal members. The Squaxin Island Tribe's Human Resources Department will also assist you in creating a resume and completing applications.



Contact information for Employment Opportunities

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

(360) 426-9781

ISLAND ENTERPRISES, INC.

(360) 426-3442

(Tribal Business: Skookum Creek Tobacco, Island Construction, Kamilche Trading Post, Salish Seafood's, Kamilche Cafe, Franks Landing, Business Development Center)

LITTLE CREEK CASINO AND SALISH CLIFFS GOLF COURSE

(360) 427-7711

Vocational Rehabilitation Program

Vocational Rehabilitation is set up to help eligible people with physical or mental disabilities prepare for work. General Assistance is also available, along with Native Employment Works and Western Washington Training Program. This service will prepare you for, entering, engaging in, or retaining gainful employment. Contact June Krise (360) 432-3821.

Here are just some of the documented disabilities that qualify for Vocational Rehabilitation services:

- Visual Impairment
- ADD
- Arthritis
- Carpel Tunnel Syndrome
- ADHD
- Learning Disabilities
- Personality Disorders
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Alcohol/drug Addictions
- Fibromyalgia



Squaxin Island Tribe Housing Program

The Squaxin Island Tribe's Housing Department does not have a specific housing assistance program for inmates coming out of prison.

A Tribal member can fill out an application for low income housing. The Office of Housing screens all application. Tribal members with a felony conviction may or may not be eligible for housing, depending on the type of felony and if it violates the Tribal Code. The Housing Commission will take a felony conviction into consideration when deciding whether to approve or deny your housing application.

If it is determined that you are not eligible, you may appeal to the Office of Housing within 10 days of the denial. Island Enterprises also provides some housing through property management. To qualify, you must be able to show that you can pay three times the rent and have good credit. If all homes are leased out you will have to check back on the availability. Please contact Island Enterprises at (360) 426-3442.



Cultural Activities

The Tribe welcomes you to participate in all community activities. There are activities scheduled most days.

The Squaxin Island Tribe's Museum hosts many cultural activities. A list of some activities:

- Canoe Journey
- Drum Group
- Men's Gathering
- Sweat Lodge Meetings
- Language Classes
- Basketball
- 12 Step Meetings
- Basket Making
- Beading Workshops

Contact the museum at (360) 432-3839.



Disclaimers

This handbook only summarizes information. It is not intended to be a complete guide. Each incarcerated person and his or her family have unique circumstances that could bear on whether certain services are available. Finally, nothing in this handbook is meant to provide legal advice or to waive the Tribe's sovereign immunity from suit.

Squaxin Island Tribe does NOT allow Level/Tier II and III sex offenders on tribal lands, including the Reservation.



Squaxin Island Tribe

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Shelton, WA 98584

(360) 426-9781

www.squaxinisland.org

Kathy Block, Director of Operations (360)426-3982