



Associate District Judge Cynthia D. Pickering
DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA
Twenty-Fourth Judicial District
314 West 7th Street, Room 100
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447
(918) 756-1835

February 16, 2017

Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 North Street, NE
Suite 10 W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Director:

I write to you as the Associate District Judge of Okmulgee County, Okmulgee, Oklahoma in support of Muscogee (Creek) Nation's proposal to the Office on Violence Against Women for the FY 2017 Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program to fund the continuation of advocacy services to children and families impacted by sexual violence. This grant program will continue to ensure the delivery of a variety of advocacy and supportive services to child victims and non-offending family members and caregivers, through a holistic and collaborative approach in rural communities across the eleven counties that comprise the jurisdictional boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

As Associate District Judge I work with other entities to ensure victim safety and/or offender accountability, I, along with fellow judges, highly prioritize the need for a variety of supportive services to ensure safety, justice, support and healing for children impacted by sexual violence.

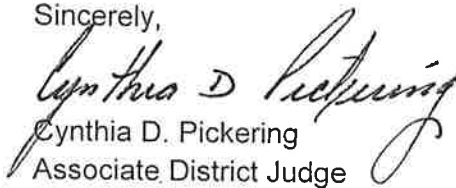
My role as judge in such matters is unique and I try to gather as much evidence as possible from all parties interested in order to determine what services are available and which of those are the most useful to the children in each case.

Through this letter, I acknowledge specific roles and responsibilities that are crucial to a successful and effective partnership. In the event this proposal is funded, I would expect that the court's role in this project to include:

- Develop or continue a positive partnership with Muscogee (Creek) Nation,
- Help to promote child advocacy services by notifying families of the Family Violence Prevention Program

I strongly support the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program and their continued efforts to provide advocacy and supportive services to child victims of sexual violence and their families.

Sincerely,


Cynthia D. Pickering
Associate District Judge