

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - Second Year, 2016

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI'  
AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROVING THE REINSTATEMENT OF  
DESIRAE ABBIGAIL DESCHINE AS A MEMBER OF THE NAVAJO NATION

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. Pursuant to the Navajo Nation law, "Any enrolled member of the Navajo Nation may renounce [her] membership by written petition to the President of the Navajo Nation requesting that his name be stricken from the Navajo Nation roll." See 1 N.N.C. § 705 (Renunciation of membership).
- B. Pursuant to Navajo Nation law, "[n]o person, otherwise eligible for membership in the Navajo Nation, may enroll as a member of the Navajo Nation, who, at the same time, is on the roll of any other tribe of Indians." See 1 N.N.C. § 703 (Member of another tribe).
- C. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §401(C)(1) the Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council "serve[s] as the oversight committee for the Division of Health, Division of Social Services, Division of Human Resources Department of Diné Education, Division of General Services ...."
- D. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(9), "[a] proposed resolution that requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council shall be assigned to standing committee(s) having authority over the subject matter at issue and the Naabik'íyáti' Committee."
- E. Pursuant to 1 N.N.C. § 705, the Navajo Nation Council, by majority vote, must approve all requests for reinstatement of enrollment with the Navajo Nation.

**SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- A. On February 20, 1983, Ms. DesiRae Abbigail Deschine was enrolled with the Navajo Nation. See Exhibit "A," Certificate of Navajo Indian Blood. Her mother renounced her membership with the Navajo Nation when she was a minor and enrolled her with the Standing Rock Sioux tribe. See Exhibit "B, Letter Requesting Reinstatement, February 24, 2016).
- B. Ms. DesiRae Abbigail Deschine's father is a Navajo Nation enrolled member. Her mother is a member of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe. See Exhibit "C," Navajo Nation Vital Statistics Letter, January 26, 2016.
- C. Ms. DesiRae Abbigail Deschine has filed for relinquishment of her enrollment with Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Membership. See Exhibit "D," Relinquishment of Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Membership, February 5, 2016. See also, Exhibit "E," Letter from Bureau of Indian Affairs Enrollment Technician, February 16, 2016 (acknowledging receipt of relinquishment request).
- D. Ms. DesiRae Abbigail Deschine is requesting reinstatement with the Navajo Nation. See Exhibit "B," Letter Requesting Reinstatement, February 24, 2016. She is also requesting that her original census number 322,972 be the same. *Id.*
- E. Ms. DesiRae Abbigail Deschine is eligible for enrollment with the Navajo Nation.

**SECTION THREE. APPROVAL FOR REENROLLMENT**

Ms. DesiRae Abbigail Deschine, is and shall be reinstated, or otherwise reenrolled, as a member of the Navajo Nation. By this action of the Navajo Nation Council and pursuant to the laws of the Navajo Nation, she shall be entitled to all rights, benefits and privileges associated with membership with the Navajo Nation.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona) at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 18 in favor and 1 opposed, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April 2016.



LoRenzo Bates, Speaker  
Navajo Nation Council

4/28/16

Date

Motion: Honorable Nelson S. BeGaye  
Second: Honorable Nathaniel Brown



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Area  
Western Navajo Agency  
P.O. Box 127

Tuba City, Arizona 86045

IN REPLY REFER TO: N33:37

Administration  
602/283-4531

EXHIBIT

A


February 20, 1985

### CERTIFICATE OF NAVAJO INDIAN BLOOD

I hereby certify that Desirae Abbigail Deschine is an enrolled member of the Navajo Tribe, with Enrollment Number \_\_\_\_\_ and Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_. Applicant is listed on Page 120 Western Navajo Census Roll, Ariz dated January 01, 1940; an official record of this office, as being of 1/2 (half) degree Navajo Indian Blood. Enrollment Date: February 20, 1985.

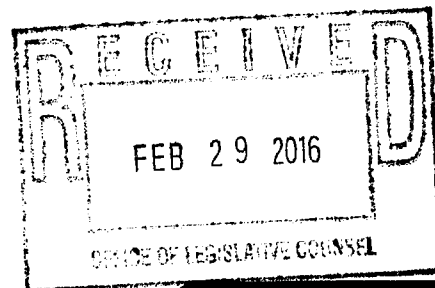
The information provided herein has been verified with the official records of the Navajo Area Census Office in Window Rock, Arizona. The Navajo Area Census Office serves as a Bureau of Vital Statistics for the Navajo Tribe.

SEAL

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Certifying Official  
Irving M. Billy  
Agency Superintendent  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

February 24, 2016

Chairman Jonathan Hale  
Health, Education, and Human Service Committee  
The Navajo Nation Council  
P.O. Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515



RE: Requesting Enrollment Re-Instated

Honorable Jonathan Hale:



Yá'át'ééh. I am DesiRae Abbigail Deschine. My mother is Greta Conica, Hunkpapa Lakota, enrolled with the Standing Rock Sioux Nation. My father is Albert Deschine, Dine', enrolled with the Navajo Nation.

My father resides in St. Michael's, Arizona, and is registered with the St. Michael's Chapter. When I was born, my parents enrolled me with the Navajo Nation. My initial census number with the Navajo Nation is . . . . . When I young my mother, following her matrilineal custom` of the Lakota, removed my Navajo membership and enrolled me with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; I was not of an age that could have made this decision and I did not know about the enrollment until later in my teenage years.

I grew-up in the Window Rock area. I attended pre-school in Fort Defiance. I went to Window Rock Elementary School, Tse Ho Tso Middle School, and graduated 2<sup>nd</sup> of my class from Window Rock High School in May 2002. The Navajo Nation is my home. When I think of home, I acknowledge the land within the four sacred mountains. I feel great pride with growing up on the Navajo Nation, which provided me many social opportunities to visit my grandparents and relatives in Dennehotso and Monument Valley areas. I have visited every major town within the Navajo Nation and crisscrossed the Navajo Nation many times.

Throughout my years as an adult, I frequently return home to Window Rock to visit my family and extended relatives, I have returned to Dennehotso as well to visit with my late-grandfather, Bill Deschine, and my aunts and uncles who still reside on their homestead. I have participated in both of my nieces' kinaalda ceremonies. I return home to the Navajo Nation to maintain ties with my family, to visit the homeland, and to participate in ceremonies and family gatherings. As a social worker in the Phoenix Valley, when I work with Navajo clients, I take extra care and time in assisting her/him knowing that in some way we are related through K'e'.

Once I have completed my post-graduate education, I intend to return to the Navajo Nation to work with the aim to strengthen the Navajo Nation's sovereignty. Although, I have not been an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, I am invested in the Nation's success as a sovereign government. Additionally, I wish to be able to participate in local politics such as being able to cast my vote in Navajo Nation elections, and to participate in community meetings, including chapter meetings.

Page 2

Letter to Honorable Jonathan Hale, HEHSC Chairperson

From DesiRae Deschine

RE: Requesting Enrollment Re-Instated

Today, I am an adult and can determine my own destiny; therefore, I am requesting to have my Navajo enrollment re-instated. I am requesting that my initial census number be reinstated. I grew up in the Window Rock area and request to be re-instated in the St. Michael's Chapter, which is where my father resides and where I grew-up. Please see the attached documents, which provide details about my relinquishment from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the letter from the Navajo Nation Tribal Enrollment Office highlighting my eligibility for enrollment.

Thank you in advance for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DRD', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DesiRae Deschine

Tempe, AZ 85282

P.O. Box

Window Rock, AZ 86515



# THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT  
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

January 26, 2016

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe  
Enrollment Department  
PO Box  
Fort Yates, North Dakota 58538

Dear Sir/Madam;

The applicant(s) named below had applied for enrollment/membership with the Navajo Nation.

Applicant:	<u>DESIRAE ABBIGAIL DESCHINE</u>	DOB:	_____
Father:	<u>Albert Deschine</u>	Tribe:	<u>Navajo</u>
Pat. Grandfather:	_____	Tribe	_____
Pat. Grandmother:	_____	Tribe	_____
Mother:	<u>Greta Adele Conica</u>	Tribe:	<u>Standing Rock Sioux</u>
Mat. Grandfather:	_____	Tribe	_____
Mat. Grandmother:	_____	Tribe	_____

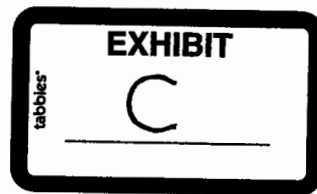
The Navajo Nation membership provision prohibits dual membership with another Indian tribe and requires 1/4 Navajo Indian Blood. Based on this Information, ***The applicant is eligible for membership with the Navajo Nation pending relinquishment with Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.***

If you have any additional question contact our office at (928) 729-4020/4428.

Sincerely

Imogene Tabaha  
Vital Statistic Technician

cc: NOVR-Pending Enrollment  
FILES Imtabaha



Relinquishment of Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Membership

EXHIBIT

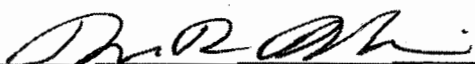
tabbles

D

I, (print) DesiRae Abbigail Deschine born on, \_\_\_\_\_ whose Enrollment Identification Number is \_\_\_\_\_ of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, being of lawful age and sound mind, do hereby request that my membership in the Standing rock Sioux Tribe be terminated; subject to the acceptance of my application for membership into the Navajo Nation Tribe and that my name be stricken from the Tribal Roll.

It is my desire that I have no further affiliation with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and I will take no part in local Tribal affairs. I hereby relinquish and surrender any and all rights, title, and interest that I may have in any undistributed property and/or assets of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

Furthermore, I understand that once my membership is relinquished with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, I will be prohibited from re-enrollment in the Tribe for a period of no less than 20 years, as stated in the Tribal Enrollment Ordinance No. 311-09.

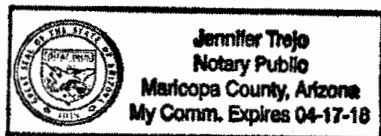
  
Member Signature

Tempe, AZ 85282  
Mailing Address


\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

State of Arizona County of Maricopa

Subscribed and Sworn before me this 5th day of February, 20 16.



(SEAL/STAMP)

  
Notary Public  
My commission expires: April 17, 2018

**NOTE:** Attach a letter of eligibility from the Tribe for which you are applying • DO NOT FAX ~ Mail this original notarized form to: BIA Enrollment, PO Box E, Fort Yates, ND 58538





**United States Department of the Interior**  
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Standing Rock Agency  
P.O. Box E  
Fort Yates, North Dakota 58538



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
Enrollment Services

February 16, 2016

Desirae Deschine

Tempe, AZ 85282



Dear Ms. Deschine:

Kindly be informed that our office is in receipt for your request to **relinquish** your membership from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Your request will be presented to the Judicial Committee meeting on 02/17/16, and onto Tribal Council after that. Please notice that once you are relinquished, you "...shall be prohibited from re-enrollment in the Tribe for a period of no less than twenty (20) years..." Thank you.

If you have any questions, you may contact the Enrollment Office at (701) 854-7522 or write to the above address.

Sincerely,

Jamie Agard,  
Enrollment Technician-SRST