

**IN THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIAL COURT
OF AND FOR THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
LAME DEER, MONTANA**

TO: PROCESS SERVER

FROM: CLERK OF COURT

RE: SERVICE OF PAPERS

PLEASE SERVE THE ATTACHED PAPER(S):

CERTIFIED COPY OF STATUS HEARING ORDER, ORDER DATED 3/16/2026

CAUSE #: AR26-035, AR26-038, AR26-039, AR26-043

NAME: ANDREA SIOUX - PROSECUTION OFFICE

LAME DEER, MT. 59043

(RETURN THIS PAPER BACK TO THE COURT, THANK YOU)

3/26/2026

Date



SOOSITY SPOTTED WOLF, CRIMINAL CLERK

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I am the Process Server for the Northern Cheyenne Court; that I received the within Service of Paperwork on _____ and personally served the same at _____ o'clock _____.m. on the _____ day of _____, 20____, upon _____ within the exterior boundaries of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation at: _____

A copy of said Service of Papers was left with the above named party.

ACKNOWLEDGED

PROCESS SERVER/DEPUTY CLERK

**IN THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COURT
OF AND FOR THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
LAME DEER, MONTANA 59043**

NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	AR 26-035, AR 26-038
	)	AR 26-039, AR 26-043
v.	)	
	)	
MELISSA RAE FISHER,	)	STATUS HEARING
MELISSA LYNN LONE BEAR,	)	ORDER
HOWARD J. ONTEVEROS,	)	
GWEN SPOTTED HORSE,	)	
Defendants.	)	
	)	

The Court held a status hearing on these cases on March 10, 2026. The Tribe had unopposed motions to dismiss four related cases. The Tribe's unopposed motions to dismiss without prejudice in AR 26-034, Tribe v. Campbell, AR 26-037, Tribe v. V. Fisher, AR 26-037, Tribe v. Littlelight and AR 26-044, Tribe v. S. Spotted Horse, are hereby granted.

The Tribe and defense counsel stipulated that the remaining four cases, AR 26-035, Tribe v. Mellisa Fisher, AR 26-038, Tribe v. Melissa Lone Bear, AR 26-039 Tribe v. Howard Onteveros, and AR 26-043, Tribe v. Gwen Spotted Horse, may be consolidated and tried together.

There were several pending motions. For the reasons set forth below, the Court now denies the Defendants' motions to dismiss. The Court further denies the Tribe's motion to

require separate counsel and the Tribe's motion in limine concerning introduction of evidence concerning Defendants' status as current or prior members of the Tribal Council.

I. Defendants' Motions to Dismiss

The Defendants in these actions served on the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council. They question the propriety of their removal from the Council. They contend that their actions of October 8, 2025, would not constitute an offense if they are members of the Council. Many of the alleged actions would be permissible for members of the Council, e.g., demanding entry into the building, entering through a non-public entrance, etc. However, some acts might be an offense even if Defendants are council members. For example, disabling the electric service to the building, or battering staff would be an offense regardless of status as Council members. The Tribe has the burden of proof and will be required to show that Defendants knew that they were no longer members or that their actions would constitute an offense even if a member of the Council.

II. The Tribe's Motion in Limine

The Tribe has moved to exclude all evidence concerning Defendants' status as "prior" Council members. However, at the status hearing, the Tribe indicated the Defendants' status would be a question of fact and was not before the Court at the status hearing. The Tribe will have the burden of proof to show that Defendants were not members of the Council on October 8, 2025. The Defendants will have the right to offer rebuttal evidence. The motion in limine is denied.

III. Superseding Complaint

The Tribe has filed a "Superseding Complaint." The parties agreed that Defendants may have until March 27, 2026, to file a motion to dismiss the Superseding Complaint. The Tribe shall respond by April 3, 2026. The Defendants may have until April 10, 2026, to reply.

IV. Speedy Trial Issues.

The Court on its own motion raised the issue of the right to a speedy trial. The parties shall address the speedy trial issue in their briefing on the motion to dismiss the Superseding Complaint. Unless Defendants waive their right to a speedy trial, the Court is inclined to set trial for the first part of May. The parties should be prepared for trial at that time.

Dated 16th day of March, 2026.

/s/ D. Michael Eakin
D. MICHAEL EAKIN, Judge Pro Tem

NORTHERN CHEYENNE COURT

CERTIFIED COPY

CLERK OF COURT:
BY: [Signature]
DATED: 3/26/2026