

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF  
THE THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES OF THE  
FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION**

**WHEREAS,** This Nation having accepted the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, and the authority under said Act; and

**WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the Three Affiliated Tribes generally authorizes and empowers the Tribal Business Council to engage in activities on behalf of and in the interest of the welfare and benefit of the Tribes and of the enrolled members thereof; and

**WHEREAS,** The Three Affiliated Tribes, the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nations, were original signatories on a treaty between themselves and the United States signed at Fort Laramie in 1851, which granted the three Tribes a vast tract of land in the upper Great Plains; and

**WHEREAS,** An original copy of the Treaty has been handed down from Four Bears, one of the signers of the Treaty, to the eldest son of each of his male descendants, and is currently supposed to be in the custody of William Bell, Sr.; and

**WHEREAS,** Due to the incapacity of William Bell, Sr., the Treaty copy has fallen into the hands of a family member who has recently sought to sell the Treaty copy to private concerns; and

**WHEREAS,** The Bell family has agreed that this original copy of the Fort Laramie Treaty belongs to the Tribes and should be kept permanently in the Three Tribes Museum maintained and operated by the Tribes; and

**WHEREAS,** The Tribes desire to keep the Treaty copy out of the hands of private individuals and believe it to be a valuable resource for future generations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** That the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes hereby officially accepts responsibility for the retention and preservation of the copy of the Fort Laramie Treaty currently being kept by the William Bell, Sr. family and further authorizes such actions to be taken on behalf of the Tribes that will allow the Bell family to again have custody of the Fort Laramie Treaty copy and thus to allow them to present the Treaty copy to the Tribe for the purposes of preservation and display.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, hereby certify that the Tribal Business Council is composed of 7 members of whom 5 constitute a quorum, 7 were present at a Special Meeting thereof duly

IN DISTRICT COURT  
THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES

FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION  
NEW TOWN, NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
GUARDIANSHIP AND )  
CONSERVATORSHIP OF )  
WILLIAM BELL, SR., AN )  
INCAPACITATED PERSON. )

**TEMPORARY ORDER**

Civil No. \_\_\_\_\_

The above entitled matter having come before the Court on October 25, 1996 and the Court finding that on March 21, 1996 the Honorable Robert Holte entered an Order appointing Wilma A. Nelson to serve as Temporary Guardian of her father William Bell, Sr. and that Order having expired on September 21, 1996 and William Bell, Jr. now having filed a Petition to serve as guardian for William Bell, Sr. IT IS HEREBY THE ORDER OF THIS COURT THAT:

1. This matter is scheduled for a full hearing on November 19, 1996 at 10:00 o'clock A.M in the tribal courthouse.

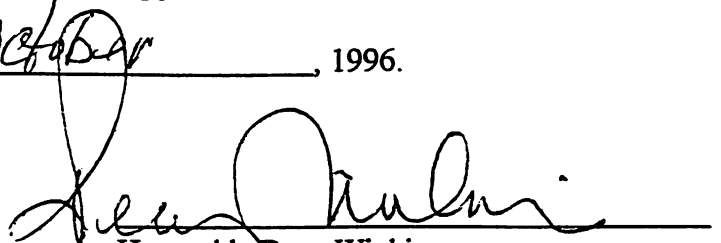
2. That Wilma A. Nelson is authorized to continue to act as a temporary guardian on a limited basis for her father William Bell, Sr. This temporary authorization is valid until November 19<sup>th</sup>, 1996 and is intended to provide for the health care needs of William Bell, Sr. who is suffering from progressional dementia.

3. Wilma A. Nelson does not have any conservatorship authority as a result of this Order. She may not sell, transfer, dispose of or otherwise encumber any property, real or personal, belonging to William Bell, Sr.

4. Wilma A. Nelson is strictly prohibited from selling, transferring, disposing of or otherwise encumbering the Three Affiliated Tribes original copy of the Fort Laramie Treaty. This Treaty shall not be removed from the State of North Dakota during the pendency of this action and shall be produced by Ms. Nelson at the November 19<sup>th</sup>, 1996 hearing.

5. The Court shall retain continuing jurisdiction over this matter.

Dated this 25 day of October, 1996.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Honorable Dean Winkjer  
Associate Judge



THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES  
*Fort Berthold District Court*

P.O. BOX 969  
NEW TOWN, NORTH DAKOTA 58763

Adult Court 627-4803  
Juvenile Court 627-4898  
Fax Line 627-4602

November 5, 1996

District Judge  
P. Diane Avery

Prosecutor  
El Marie Conklin

Special Prosecutor  
Dennis E. Johnson

Assistant Prosecutor  
Evan Burr, Jr.

Office Manager  
Dixie Howling Wolf

Clerk of Court  
Phyllis K. Wells

Juvenile Officer  
Jim Johnson

Christopher Quale  
Three Affiliated Tribes  
Legal Department  
HC3 Box 2  
New Town, ND 58763

**RE: William Bell, Sr. - Guardianship Hearing**

Dear Mr. Quale:

Please be advised that a hearing in the above referenced case has been **scheduled** for hearing before the Honorable Dean Winkjer on the **19th day of November at 10:00 A.M., CDT.**

Court will be held at the Fort Berthold District Courtroom located below the New Town Post Office, New Town, North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Wells  
Clerk of Court

xc: file

IN DISTRICT COURT

FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION

THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES

NEW TOWN, NORTH DAKOTA

In the Matter of the Guardianship )  
 and Conservatorship of William )  
 Bell, Sr., an Incapacitated Person. )  
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**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE  
 BY MAIL**

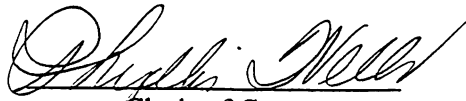
Phyllis K. Wells being first duly sworn, deposes and says that on the 5th day of November, 1996 she mailed the following:

**Notice of Hearing**

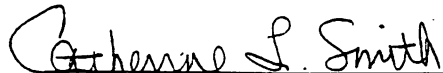
on file with the Fort Berthold District Court, by placing a true and correct copy thereof in an envelope and mailed to the following:

- Wilma Nelson, 712 8th Street N.E., Minot, ND 58703
- William Bell, Jr., New Town, ND 58763
- James Fitzsimmons, P.O. Box 217, New Town, ND 58763
- Christopher Quale, TAT Legal Department, HC 3 Box 2, New Town, ND 58763

by depositing the same, with postage prepaid, in the United States Mail at New Town, North Dakota.

  
 Clerk of Court

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1996.

  
 Notary Public/WITNESS

**Resolution No.** 96-193-DSB  
**Page 2 of 2**

called, noticed, convened, and held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1996; that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at such Meeting by the affirmative vote of 7 members, members opposed, 0 members abstained, 0 not voting, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1996.

Daylon Spotted Bear  
Secretary, Tribal Business Council

ATTEST:



Chairman, Tribal Business Council