



**OFFICE OF THE TRIBAL PROSECUTOR**

**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
OFFICE OF THE TRIBAL PROSECUTOR**

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**MEMORANDUM OF LAW**

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**Re: Tribal Seal Use**

After several recent inquiries, it is important to restate the limitations on the use of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Seal, Tribal Ordinance #96-100-01.

**Tribal Ordinance #96-100-01 (in part):**

**Article V. Limitation on the Use of Facsimiles, Reproductions or Impressions**

*5.01 Use in Connection with Private Communications Prohibited* – No facsimiles, reproductions or impressions of the Tribal Seal, with or without the wording associated with the seal, shall be used in any private communication or documents, including **but not limited to:** private communications by employees of the Tribal government, stationary, envelopes, facsimiles, and electronic documents, which are unconnected with authorized, official functions or communications of the Tribe.

The Tribal seal must not be used in conjunction with/for any political purpose without the express, written authorization and consent of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council. This includes any political campaign related activity,

including, **but not limited to:** printed campaign related literature and materials, campaign ads printed and otherwise, campaign texts and emails, political ads or requests transmitted electronically in any manner, included but not limited to texting, Tik-Tok, What's App, Snap Chat, X (formerly Twitter), Facebook or any and all forms of social media.

This prohibition covers all Little River Band of Ottawa Indian (LRBOI) employees, LRBOI members, non-LRBOI members, all elected officials of the LRBOI, all persons running for LRBOI elected positions, non-LRBOI elected officials, and any person, member or not, running for any tribal, local, state or federal elective position.

Permission for use of the seal for political purposes must be in writing and authorized by the LRBOI Tribal Council. There are no exceptions.

#### **Article VI. Civil Offenses: Penalties**

**6.01** Any Indian or non-tribal member who violates this ordinance shall be liable for a civil fine not to exceed \$5,000 for each violation thereof.

**6.02** In enforcing the civil infraction provisions of this ordinance, the Tribal Ogema or the Tribal Prosecutor shall proceed in the name of the Tribe against a person for violation of such provision by civil complaint. The Tribal Ogema or Prosecutor in such action shall have the burden of showing by a preponderance of the evidence, that such a person violated the provisions of this ordinance.

The Tribal Prosecutor will proceed in the name of the Tribe for all violations of the Ordinance that occur after the posting and publication of this Notice. A member of the tribe or any member of the general public who becomes aware of any violations of the seal ordinance, shall provide proof of such violation to the Tribal Prosecutor's Office for it to be thoroughly investigated.

William L. Cataldo  
Tribal Prosecutor