

**TRIBAL CONSTITUTION**

**INTERPRETATION NO. 12-09**

**WHEREAS,** Interpretation No. 1-80 provides that the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) may at its own motion issue written opinions as to the meaning and interpretation of the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; and

**WHEREAS,** Article II, Section 1(c) of the Revised Constitution and Bylaws provides that the membership of the Tribe shall include "[a]ll children of at least one quarter (¼) degree Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood born after July 3, 1961, to a member, (Emphasis added); and

**WHEREAS,** a question has arisen whether a child adopted by a member or members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe may assume ½ of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe blood of an adoptive parent or parents; and

**WHEREAS,** the Section III.G. of the Enrollment Ordinance adopted by the TEC on July 30, 2003, defines "child born to a member" as meaning "the biological child of a person who at the time of the child's birth was an enrolled member"...; and

**WHEREAS,** Article II, Section 3 of the 1936 Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution provided that "[n]o person shall be enrolled as a member of the tribe unless he or she is a descendent of a member of the tribe; and

**WHEREAS,** the enrollment practices of the MCT have always determined Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood by reference to biological parents and not adoptive parents; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the requirement of being "born to a member" in Article II of the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe has always meant that an applicant is attributed only with the Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood of his or her biological parents.

We do hereby certify that the foregoing Constitutional Interpretation was duly presented and acted upon by a vote of 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent, at a Special Meeting of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee, a quorum present, held on December 8, 2009 at Prior Lake, Minnesota.

  
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Norman W. Deschampe, President  
THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE

  
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Franklin B. Heisler, Secretary  
THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE