



Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

PO Box 1210

Durant, Oklahoma 74702-1210

Phone: 580-924-8280 or 1-800-522-6170

Fax: 580-924-4529

OFFICE OF
TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP

Greetings,

We have received your application for Tribal Membership. However, we have been informed that you are registered with the Cherokee Nation as a member of their tribe. The Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma does not permit dual enrollment. Therefore, if you wish to stay a member of the Cherokee Nation, you cannot become a member of the Choctaw Nation.

If you wish to terminate your membership/voting rights with the Cherokee Nation and become a member with the Choctaw Nation, then you may do so by completing the enclosed relinquishment statement and returning it to the following address:

Cherokee Nation
Attn: Registration Department
PO Box 948
Tahlequah, OK. 74465

Once the Cherokee Nation has received the relinquishment, you will need to contact them to complete their relinquishment process. Enclosed are the steps to relinquish from the Cherokee Nation. Once you have completed the Cherokee Nation relinquishment process, they will send a copy of your relinquishment to you. When you receive the completed relinquishment you will need to send a copy to us. We will then complete the process of making you a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and will send you a Tribal Membership card.

This in no way will affect your Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood card (CDIB); it only pertains to membership/voting.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

Tribal Membership Specialist
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Instructions for Relinquishment of Cherokee Nation Tribal Citizenship

I. OVERVIEW

Title 11, §§ 31-35 of the Cherokee Nation Code details the process and procedures required to validly relinquish tribal citizenship. The Code establishes a three-step process an individual or sponsor must complete in order to be removed from the tribal citizenship rolls. In order for a relinquishment to be valid, the individual or sponsor must do the following:

1. Receive a relinquishment form from the Registrar and sign the form before a notary public;
2. File the notarized relinquishment form with the Cherokee Nation District Court Clerk who will then set a hearing not more than thirty (30) days after the filing, at which the District Court Judge will determine whether to authorize the individual to submit the notarized relinquishment form back to the Registrar; and
3. Submit the notarized relinquishment form and a certified copy of the District Court Judge's order to the Registrar.

The relinquishment of the individual's tribal citizenship shall become effective sixty (60) days after the date on which the notarized relinquishment form and certified copy of the District Court Judge's order were delivered to the Registrar unless the Registrar receives a written request from the individual or sponsor to revoke or withdraw his or her tribal relinquishment form.

II. INSTRUCTIONS

a. Step # 1 – Request Relinquishment Form from Registrar and Sign Before Notary Public

- i. The request for a tribal citizenship relinquishment form shall be made in person or in a writing signed by the citizen or the citizen's sponsor and delivered to the Registrar.
 1. A sponsor must meet the definition of 11 CNCA § 3(O) AND must also be that minor child's biological parent or adoptive parent. A sponsor who is not a minor child's biological parent or adoptive parent shall have no authority to act on such minor child's behalf in the relinquishment of the minor's tribal citizenship.
- ii. Each form must be issued to the citizen with the following information *already* entered on the form: name of the citizen, the citizen's registry number, the sponsor's name (if any) and the date of issuance of the form.
- iii. The individual or sponsor shall sign the registration form before a notary public.

b. Step # 2 – Individual Files Notarized Relinquishment Form in the Cherokee Nation District Court

- i. The filed form must be the Registrar’s official relinquishment form and must be notarized.
- ii. Clerk shall style the case: “In re the relinquishment of citizenship of _____, a Tribal Citizen.”
 1. All hearings and the court file shall be confidential and closed to the public as in other juvenile cases; provided copies of any court order authorizing or denying relinquishment shall be made available to the Registrar for filing in the minor child’s citizenship records in accordance w/ this section but shall not otherwise be subject to public disclosure.
- iii. Clerk shall not charge a filing fee.
- iv. Clerk shall set the hearing date not more than thirty (30) days after the filing of the proper form.
 1. If the case is rescheduled or continued due to the tribal citizen needing more time to consider the ramifications of relinquishment OR that another person has custodial rights w/ regard to the child and disputes or would likely dispute the relinquishment, the Court shall schedule another hearing no more than thirty (30) days after the initial hearing and shall require that notice of same be given to all persons known to the Court to have parental or custodial rights w/ regard to the minor citizen. Within fifteen (15) days after the conclusion of the subsequent hearing the Court shall issue its order and decision on whether relinquishment would be in the best interests of the minor citizen.
- v. Clerk shall deliver Notice of the initial hearing must be delivered to the citizen at the time of filing or subsequently by first-class mail.
- vi. Clerk shall deliver notice of the initial hearing must be mailed to the Cherokee Nation Office of the Attorney General.
- vii. Clerk shall provide a certified copy of the District Court Judge’s Order to the individual or sponsor without charge.

c. Step # 3 – Submit Notarized Relinquishment Form and Certified Copy of Order Approving Relinquishment to Registrar

- i. Individual or sponsor shall submit copies of the certified order and notarized relinquishment form to the Registrar within sixty (60) days following the issuance of the District Court Judge’s order.
- ii. Upon timely receipt of the certified copies of the Court’s order and the relinquishment form, the Registrar shall stamp both w/ the date on which they were received by the Registrar and place them in the tribal citizen’s file.

1. The Registrar shall not accept the relinquishment form without the certified copy of the Court's order authorizing relinquishment to proceed.
- iii. The relinquishment shall become effective sixty (60) days after the date on which the certified copies of the Court's order and tribal citizenship relinquishment form were delivered to the Registrar.
1. If a written request by the tribal citizen or sponsor to revoke or withdraw his or her tribal citizenship relinquishment form is delivered to the Registrar prior to the expiration of the sixty (60) day period, the tribal citizenship relinquishment form shall be deemed withdrawn and the person's status as a tribal citizen shall continue as if the relinquishment form had never been received by the Registrar.



**CHEROKEE NATION
TRIBAL REGISTRATION
P.O. BOX 948
TAHLEQUAH, OK 74465**

Phone: (918) 458-6980 Fax: (918) 458-7617
Email: registration@cherokee.org
Web: www.cherokee.org

DATE: _____

TRIBAL REGISTRATION REQUEST FORM

ADULTS: MUST SIGN OWN FORM IN "INK" AND PROVIDE A COPY OF IDENTIFICATION

MINORS: PARENT/AUTHORIZED AGENT/CUSTODIAL PARENT MAY REQUEST. ID REQUIRED

- | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ADDRESS CHANGE | AMENDMENT | DUP CDIB | DUP CITIZ | IND PREF LTR | MARRIAGE NAME CHG | RELINQUISHMENT | OTHER |

LEGAL NAME: _____ **FIRST** _____ **MIDDLE** _____ **MAIDEN** _____ **LAST** _____

_____ **DATE OF BIRTH** _____ **CITIZENSHIP NUMBER** _____ **TELEPHONE NUMBER** _____ **SOCIAL SECURITY** _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: _____ **ADDRESS** _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ **ADDRESS** _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

NAME CHANGE: _____ **WAS** _____ **NOW** _____

If the applicant is under 18, is he/she legally represented? Such as:

Court appointed guardianship, court ordered custody, divorce custody

YES: _____ NO: _____ If YES, custody/legal documents will need to be submitted with this form.

_____ **SIGNATURE OF PERSON REQUESTING** () PERSON HIMSELF/HERSELF
 () PERSON MAKING REQUEST: _____
 () AUTHORIZED AGENT (Relationship) _____

Explain how to amend your CDIB here (if applicable): _____