

April 14, 2014

The Honorable Sean R. Parnell
Governor
State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

The Honorable William J. Streur
Commissioner
State of Alaska
Department of Health and Social Services
P.O. Box 110601
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0601

Re: Withdrawal of Renkes Opinion on Jurisdiction
of State and Tribal Courts in Child Protection Matters

Dear Governor Parnell and Commissioner Streur:

On March 4, 2011, the Alaska Supreme Court issued *State v. Native Village of Tanana*, 249 P.3d 734 (Alaska). The *Tanana* decision is the most recent guidance on the scope of tribal jurisdiction in ICWA-defined child custody proceedings, and therefore supersedes prior guidance from the Department of Law on the same topic. Accordingly, I withdraw the Attorney General Opinion issued by Attorney General Gregg Renkes on October 1, 2004 to Commissioner Joel Gilbertson, "Jurisdiction of State and Tribal Courts in Child Protection Matters," 2004 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 1, 2004 WL 2337177 (Alaska A.G.).

Sincerely,

Michael C. Geraghty
Attorney General