



Sealaska Heritage Institute

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Sealaska Heritage Institute Repatriation Claim Procedures under traditional laws and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

Under traditional laws, at.óow or clan treasures are owned by clans and clan leaders serve as trustees of clan property.

Under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, only federally-recognized tribes and councils and Alaska Native Corporations are eligible to submit repatriation claims.

Clans have the option of seeking repatriation through their local tribal government or village corporation and Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska or Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) acting on behalf of Sealaska Corporation.

SHI will be guided by the Tlingit Clan Trust Property Law and Resolution adopted by the Council of Traditional Scholars in its repatriation activities.

To reconcile the conflicting positions between traditional law and NAGPRA, the following procedures are adopted by Sealaska Heritage Institute acting on behalf of Sealaska Corporation.

SHI shall initiate a repatriation claim upon receipt of a resolution form a clan if an object [s] is known to be culturally affiliated with a clan and the object is subject to the terms of NAGPRA.

SHI shall initiate a repatriation claim upon receipt of a resolution from a tribal government or village corporation if cultural affiliation with a clan cannot be determined for an object, but cultural affiliation has been established with a community and the object[s] is subject to the terms of NAGPRA.

SHI shall initiate a repatriation claim for an object if cultural affiliation with a clan or community cannot be determined, but cultural affiliation has been established for the Tlingit or Haida and the object is subject to the terms of NAGPRA. Sealaska will transfer title of the repatriated object to a clan or village if cultural affiliation can be established.

SHI shall seek funds for a representative of the appropriate clan, tribe or Village Corporation to accompany SHI to the museum to claim the at.óow which has been successfully repatriated.

Sealaska shall immediately transfer title to the appropriate clan, tribe or village upon the successful repatriation of an object.

SHI shall apply the above procedures for the disposition of human remains.

SHI will maintain possession of a repatriated object [s] if the clan, tribe or corporation directs through a resolution that SHI maintain and care for the object [s] subject to the terms of a signed MOA between the parties.

Approved by



Rosita Worl

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