

## **MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT CRITERIA STANDARDS**

**Pursuant to the Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico Constitution and By-laws (2012):**

### **ARTICLE II- MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Section 2- Membership Enrollment Criteria:**

Membership Enrollment in the Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico must be met by one of the following criteria listed below:

A. All applicants who can prove Chihene Nde (Warm Springs) or any Apache bloodline thru genealogical birth (lineal descendant), supported by documentation. A policy shall be established by the Membership Committee and approved by Tribal Council. Once an applicant has been validated by the Membership Committee, the enrollment application for membership will be referred to the Tribal Council for final approval.

B. All applicants whose parent(s) or legal guardian (s) are members of another Native American Band or Tribe of Apache, are eligible for membership as a member of the Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico provided he/she meets the application criteria as described in Article II, Sections 2 and 3.

C. Application for membership must be supported by documentation of Census rolls, a copy of a certified birth certificate, baptism records recognized as official government documents and in special circumstances concerning the lack of the aforementioned documentation, the applicant may submit certified MTDNA or YDNA as scientific evidence to prove Apache heritage. This process must be validated by the Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico Membership Committee and approved by the Tribal Council.

D. If the applicant has met the criteria for application, the applicant must be interviewed and voted on by the Membership Committee of the Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico. If the Membership Committee approves the applicant for membership, the Membership Committee must refer application for final approval by Tribal Council at the next available meeting. If the applicant is a member of another federally recognized tribe, the applicant must relinquish his/her membership and affiliation in the respective nation in writing. All relinquishments for an applicant under the age of eighteen must be signed by his/her legal guardian(s) and all documentation must be notarized. Supporting documentation from any and all other Native Nations must be filed with the Membership Committee in order to finalize enrollment.

E. Any findings of falsified documentation are cause for immediate removal from the Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico.

F. Tribal Membership records will be housed and maintained in New Mexico at the discretion of the Tribal Council, until a permanent office is secured. The Secretary or Registered Agent may house records in the interim for the purposes of inspection by federal authority during the re-recognition process outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations.

### **Section 3- Application for Membership by Other Native American Bands or Tribes of Chiricahua Apache:**

All applicants must meet the requirements of Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico for membership under Article 2, Section 2. Member(s) of another Native American or Indigenous North American Apache Band may, upon filing an application, be considered for membership of the Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico.

### **Section 4- Adopted Children:**

A.Children adopted by a current Band member(s) may be enrolled as a member of the Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico. The adopted children must reside and be under the supervision of the adopted parent(s) or legal guardian(s) until age eighteen (18). When the child has attained the age of eighteen (18), he/she may continue to be a member with full membership privileges in the Band. Under traditional custom, a child raised in a Chihene family is entitled to full membership.