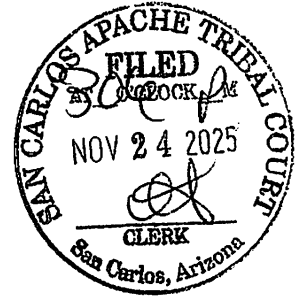


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**IN THE SAN CARLOS APACHE CHILDREN'S COURT
SAN CARLOS APACHE RESERVATION
SAN CARLOS, ARIZONA**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Case No.: **CW-2025-0039**

MICHAEL TORRES
DOB: 07-03-2011

CHILD IN NEED OF CARE PETITION

Minor Child

The San Carlos Apache Tribe, by and through its representative undersigned petitions the Children's Court, pursuant to Chapter IV, Title V, Section 15. C. of the Child and Family Protection Code ("CFPC") to make the above minor a temporary ward of the Court pending further proceedings, based on the following:

Jurisdiction

- 1) The ("Minor Child") Michael Torres (Age: 14) is a dependent Native American Indian child and is tribally affiliated as an enrolled member or eligible to be an enrolled member with the San Carlos Apache Tribe.
- 2) The Children's Court of the San Carlos Apache Tribe ("Tribe") has exclusive jurisdiction pursuant to the San Carlos Apache Law and Order Code (SCALOC)

Chapter 3, Title V, of the Child and Family Protection Code (CFPC), under Section 5 (A) General Jurisdiction.

- 3) The Minor Child's mother is Stephanie Palmer. The Minor Child's father is James Torres, whose whereabouts are unknown. Carloine El Ansary is the Minor Child's guardian. At least one parents is an enrolled member of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, which is a federally recognized Indian tribe; as such, the Minor Child is eligible for membership with the San Carlos Apache Tribe, which establishes Jurisdiction of the San Carlos Apache Children's Court pursuant to SCAT-CFPC.

Specific Allegations

- 4) On November 13, 2025, Child Protective Services Investigator Jerry James received a report that the Minor Child, Michael Torres, was ready to be released from the Palo Verde Behavioral Health Facility in Tucson, AZ.
- 5) Palo Verde staff wanted to know who would be picking up the Minor Child and taking responsibility for him.
- 6) Mr. James was not familiar with the Minor Child, but learned that his co-investigator, Alex Lewis, previously investigated a report about the Minor Child.
- 7) Mr. James also learned that Caroline El Ansary had been appointed guardian of the Minor Child, but that Mr. Lewis had removed the Minor Child and placed him with his maternal aunt, Delisa Palmer.
- 8) Mr. James learned that the Minor Child was taken to the San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation's Emergency Department on November 7, 2025 after an incident at his school.

- 1 9) The Minor Child made statement of suicide and a desire to harm himself so the
2 medical staff arranged to send him to Palo Verde for treatment on November 8, 2025.
- 3 10) Mr. James contacted the Minor Child's mother, Stephanie Palmer, and determined
4 that she was not an appropriate party to care for the Minor Child.
- 5 11) Stephanie Palmer has other children who are wards of the Court and has failed to
6 address the behaviors that caused those children to come into care.
- 7 12) Stephanie Palmer gave Mr. James contact information for her sister, Delisa Palmer,
8 who had been taking care of the Minor Child.
- 9 13) However, on November 14, 2025, staff from Palo Verde contacted Mr. James and
10 told him that while the Minor Child was ready to be discharged from their facility, he
11 could not return to Caroline El Ansary or Delisa Palmer because of safety concerns.
- 12 14) Palo Verde staff told Mr. James that the Minor Child said that he would shoot
13 himself if he was returned to either of those placements. Palo Verde staff said that the
14 Minor Child would not be released to either placement even if a Court ordered.
- 15 15) Mr. James began researching other placements, including a group home off of the
16 Reservation.
- 17 16) During his investigation, Mr. James learned of a relative, Emma Victor, who was
18 willing to take care of the Minor Child.
- 19 17) Ms. Victor told Mr. James that she understood his recent behaviors and was willing
20 to work with the Minor Child to address his behaviors. She said that she did not want
21 the Minor Child to be sent to a group home off of the Reservation.
- 22 18) Ms. Victor told Mr. James that the Minor Child has stayed with her family in the
23 past. She also said that her husband was willing to take him into their home.
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1 19) On November 21, 2025, Mr. James gave Emma Victor and her husband, Waylon
2 Hooke, an Agreement for Child Placement with Relative. He then arranged for Ms.
3 Victor and Mr. Hooke to pick up the Minor Child at Palo Verde.

4 20) That same day, Mr. James gave a Temporary Custody Notice to Caroline El Ansary,
5 the guardian, Delisa Palmer, a former placement, and Stephanie Palmer, the mother.
6 Mr. James left a TCN with relatives of the father, James Torres, who lives at an
7 unknown location of the Phoenix area.
8

9 21) CPS Investigator James provided a report on his initial investigation concerning the
10 allegations of this petition.
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12 Placement

13 22) On November 21, 2025, Jerry James arranged for the Minor Child to be with his
14 relative, Emma Victor, and her husband, Wayon Hooke, at their home in the
15 Chinatown area in San Carlos, AZ. Mr. James gave them an Agreement for
16 Placement of Child with Relative. The couple said they were willing to care for the
17 Minor Child and to provide for his needs.

18 23) Also, on November 21, 2025, Mr. James gave a Temporary Custody Notice to
19 Caroline El Ansary, the Minor Child's guardian, Delisa Palmer, a former relative
20 placement, and Stephanie Palmer, the mother. Mr. James left a TCN with relatives of
21 the father, James Torres, who lives at an unknown location of the Phoenix area
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23 24) Precautionary efforts will be made available for the Minor Child's protection
24 pursuant to CFPC Section 13. B. 1. The Minor Child is placed as a temporary ward
25 with the San Carlos Apache Children's Court and the San Carlos Tribal Social
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Services Department. Minor child Michael Torres is placed with his relatives, Emma Victor and Waylon Hooke, at their home in the Chinatown area in San Carlos.

25) Current address of Parents and Relatives:

Parents:	Mother Stephanie Palmer P.O. Box 237 San Carlos, AZ 85550
	Father James Torres Unknown location in the Phoenix area
Guardian	Caroline El Ansary P.O. Box 701 San Carlos, AZ 85550
Former Placement	Delisa Palmer P.O. Box 237 San Carlos, AZ 85550
Placement:	Emma Victor and Waylon Hooke Chinatown, San Carlos, AZ P.O. Box 1805 San Carlos, AZ 85550
Phone:	(928) 200-8151

Shelter Care Hearing

26) Based on the information provided above, the Tribe is recommending the Minor Child be placed in temporary protective custody under the protection of the Children's Court and request that the Minor Child be made a temporary ward of the Court pending further proceedings.

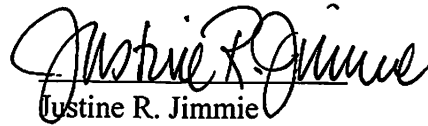
27) Additionally, the Tribe requests, pursuant to CFPC Section 16, that a **Shelter Care Hearing** be scheduled within ten (10) working days of the filing of this Child in Need of Care Petition, pursuant to C.F.P.C. Section 16 (B), and that Mother Stephanie

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Palmer, Father James Torres, and Guardian Caroline El Ansary be provided notice of the Hearing pursuant to C.F.P.C. Section 16(C).

I, Attorney Justine R. Jimmie, have read the foregoing and attest that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed and dated this 24th day of November, 2025.



Justine R. Jimmie
Deputy Attorney General
San Carlos Apache Tribe