



1 San Carlos Apache Tribe
 Department of Justice
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 8 **IN THE SAN CARLOS APACHE CHILDREN'S COURT**
SAN CARLOS APACHE RESERVATION
 9 **SAN CARLOS, ARIZONA**

10 In the Matter of:)

Case No.: CW-2026 0001

11 **BABY BOY KENTON**
 12 **DOB: 12/24/2025**

) **CHILD IN NEED OF CARE PETITION**

13)
 14 Minor Child)

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

20 **Jurisdiction**

- 21
 22 1) The ("Minor Child") Baby Boy Kenton (Age: newborn), is a dependent Native
 23 American Indian child and tribally affiliated as an enrolled member or eligible to be
 24 an enrolled member with the San Carlos Apache Tribe.
 25 2) The Children's Court of the San Carlos Apache Tribe ("Tribe") has exclusive
 26 jurisdiction pursuant to the San Carlos Apache Law and Order Code (SCALOC)
 27
 28

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1 Chapter 3, Title V, of the Child and Family Protection Code (CFPC), under Section
2 5 (A) General Jurisdiction.

- 3 3) The Minor Child's mother is Mariah Kenton ("Mother"). The Minor Child's father is
4 Zoyvod Victor ("Father"). The parent(s) are enrolled members of the San Carlos
5 Apache Tribe, which is a federally recognized Indian tribe; as such, the Minor Child
6 is eligible for membership with the San Carlos Apache Tribe, which establishes
7 Jurisdiction of the San Carlos Apache Children's Court pursuant to SCAT-CFPC.
8

9 **Specific Allegations**

- 10 4) On December 29, 2025, Child Protective Services Investigator Jerry James received a
11 report from the Arizona Department of Child Safety that a baby was born in an
12 ambulance on the way from the San Carlos Healthcare Corporation facility to the
13 Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center.
14
15 5) The report also indicted that the newborn, identified as Baby Boy Kenton, was
16 experiencing medical respiratory distress and was medically transported to the Banner
17 University Medical Center in Phoenix.
18
19 6) The newborn was placed in the NICU and his meconium was collected, which upon
20 testing was found to be positive for methamphetamine and amphetamine.
21
22 7) The mother, Mariah Kenton, was not sent to the Banner hospital with the newborn
23 and hospital staff has been unable to contact her. She has not been to the hospital to
24 see her baby.
25
26 8) Hospital records showed that mother had limited prenatal care and it was not known
27 how far into her pregnancy that the baby was born.
28
29 9) The hospital did not have information on the identity of the newborn's father.

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- 1 10) On December 29, 2025, Mr. James found the mother, Mariah Kenton, in Chinatown
2 on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation. Zoyvod Victor was with the mother
3 and she identified Mr. Victor as her newborn's father.
4
5 11) Ms. Kenton and Mr. Victor live in an old abandoned Volkswagen bus in Chinatown.
6
7 12) Mr. James asked Ms. Kenton and Mr. Victor if they had visited the newborn in the
8 hospital in Phoenix. The mother said no, but she had called the hospital to check on
9 the baby.
10
11 13) Mr. James told the parents that the baby tested positive for methamphetamine and
12 amphetamine. He also asked if they knew the bay would test positive. Neither
13 responded.
14
15 14) Mr. James asked the mother if she had used methamphetamine during her pregnancy.
16 Ms. Kenton admitted that she used methamphetamine about two days before giving
17 birth and a couple days before that.
18
19 15) Mr. James noticed that the Ms. Kenton appeared high and did not seem concerned
20 about her newborn. Mr. James asked her when she last used drugs; she responded that
21 she used methamphetamine earlier that day.
22
23 16) Mr. James asked Mr. Victor if he had used methamphetamine that day. Mr. Victor
24 said he did not use any drugs that day, but he did admit that he uses
25 methamphetamine on occasion.
26
27 17) Mr. James aske Ms. Kenton if she wanted to get her baby when he is ready to be
28 released from the hospital. She hesitated then said yes, would want to reunify.
29
30 18) Mr. James asked Mr. Victor if he wanted to get his baby back from the hospital. He
31 said that he thinks the baby would be better without him and Ms. Kenton because of
32 where they live.

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1 19) Mr. James told the couple that he would come back the next day to give them both
2 Temporary Custody Notices. Ms. Kenton told Mr. James that she would not be home
3 until the evening. Mr. James told her that he would give her notice to Mr. Victor and
4 he could give it to her. She agreed.

5
6 20) On December 30, Mr. James returned to Chinatown and met Mr. Victor to give him a
7 TCN for him and Ms. Kenton. Mr. Victor said that he would give the TCN to Ms.
8 Kenton when she returns.

9 21) The newborn remains at the hospital and likely will stay there for another month.

10 22) Mr. James provided copies of the TCN to the hospital.

11 23) CPS Investigator Jerry James provided a report on his initial investigation concerning
12 the allegations of this petition.

13 Placement

14
15 24) The newborn remains at the hospital and likely will stay there for another month.

16 25) On December 30, 2025, Mr. James gave Mr. Victor a TCN with Mr. Victor and Ms.
17 Kenton's names on at their residence in Chinatown.

18 26) Precautionary efforts will be made available for the minor child's protection pursuant
19 to CFPC Section 13. B. 1. The Minor Child is placed as a temporary ward with the
20 San Carlos Apache Children's Court and the San Carlos Tribal Social Services
21 Department. The Minor Child remains at Banner University Medical Center in
22 Phoenix.

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24 27) Current address of Parents and Relatives:

25 Parents:

Mother—Mariah Kenton
P.O. Box 1316
San Carlos, AZ 85550

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