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11
12 **IN THE SAN CARLOS APACHE CHILDREN'S COURT**
13 **SAN CARLOS APACHE RESERVATION**
14 **SAN CARLOS, ARIZONA**

15 IN THE MATTER OF:

16 Case No.: CW-2026 0003

17 **ZEPPELLIN SA HUNTER**
18 **DOB: 11-27-2025**

19 **CHILD IN NEED OF CARE PETITION**

20 **Minor Child**

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

25 **Jurisdiction**

- 26 1) The ("Minor Child") Zepellin SA Hunter (Age: infant) is a dependent Native
27 American Indian child and is tribally affiliated as an enrolled member or eligible to be
28 an enrolled member with the San Carlos Apache Tribe.
- 29 2) The Children's Court of the San Carlos Apache Tribe ("Tribe") has exclusive
30 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 Ayanna Moses. The Minor Child's father is Zachariah Hunter. Both parents are or have been enrolled members 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 January 28, 2026, Child Protective Services Investigator Jerry James received a report from the Emergency Department at the San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation about an infant who may have been exposed to Methamphetamine.
- 5) Relatives of the baby reported that the parents, Ayanna Moses and Zachariah Hunter, frequently used drugs, including in the presence of their baby, Zepellin SA Hunter.
- 6) Those relative expressed concern for the safety and well-being of the infant.
- 7) Paternal aunt, Rissa Ethelbah described domestic violence between the parents. She reported seeing then parents arguing then the father striking the mother with his open hand and later using an extension cord to beat the mother while she held the infant.
- 8) When Mr. James went the emergency department, he met the mother's aunt, Tiara Placencia, who rode with the mother in the ambulance from their home in Bylas.
- 9) Ms. Placencia said that the mother was in the waiting room because hospital staff did not want her to have contact with the baby, who was being treated.
- 10) Mr. James found the mother in the waiting room and spoke to her. He noticed signs and symptoms that let him to believed that the mother was under influence of an illegal drug.

1 11) Mr. James asked the mother if she had used methamphetamine that day. She said no,
2 but later told Mr. James that she had last used methamphetamine about a week ago.

3 12) Ms. Moses told Mr. James that, at that time, she had been sleeping with her son
4 beside her. The Father, Mr. Hunter, woke her up and was angry because he thought
5 that the mother had broken his pipe he used to smoke methamphetamine.
6

7 13) Ms. Moses said she woke up to Mr. Hunter slapping her on her face. Mr. Hunter then
8 grabbed an electrical extension cord and started whipping her with the cord on her
9 back. When she was being hit on her back, the mother was holding the infant.

10 14) Mr. James told the mother that the hospital staff believe that the infant was exposed
11 to methamphetamine and may have been hit by the cord. He told her that it was
12 reported that she and the father use methamphetamine near the baby.
13

14 15) While he spoke with the mother, her sister, Rissa Ethelbah called and asked Mr.
15 James to call her back.

16 16) Later, Ms. Ethelbah told Mr. James that the other is in a violent relationship with her
17 boyfriend, the baby's father. She said she is worried about her sister and her nephew.

18 17) Ms. Ethelbah said that she knows her sister uses methamphetamines and needs help
19 getting off drugs. She also said that she is willing to take care of her nephew if he is
20 removed from the parents' care and custody.
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22 18) Mr. James talked to Ms. Moses again. He asked her about getting hit by her
23 boyfriend. He asked her to show him where she was injured. She showed him her lip
24 was bruised.

25 19) While a nurse was present, Ms. Moses also showed welts on her back where she said
26 Mr. Hunter hit her with the extension cord.
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- 1 20) Mr. James asked if she was hit while holding the baby. Ms. Moses said confirmed
2 that she was holding her baby while Mr. Hunter was hitting her.
- 3 21) Ms. Moses denied being under the influence when Mr. James asked her. She agreed
4 after hesitating to take a drug test.
- 5 22) The drug test was positive for amphetamines and marijuana. Ms. Moses admitted
6 that she had used methamphetamines the past Sunday.
- 7 23) Mr. James informed the mother, Ms. Moses, that he had concerns for the baby's
8 safety because parents' drug use and domestic violence activity. And, because of
9 those concerns, he would remove the baby from the parents' care and custody and
10 place him with his aunt, Rissa Ethelbah.
- 11 24) Ms. Moses agreed that her son should go with her sister. She also agreed that she
12 needed help to get off drugs.
- 13 25) On January 28, 2026, Mr. James gave a Temporary Custody Notice to the mother,
14 Ayanna Moses while are the emergency department of the hospital.
- 15 26) Mr. James told the mother that he would look for Zachariah Hunter, the father, to
16 give him a TCN. He also gave the Ms. Moses a copy of the TCN for Mr. Hunter,
17 although he also advised her to stay away from him.
- 18 27) On January 29, 2026, Mr. James went to the residence that the believed the father,
19 Mr. Hunter, lived at in Bylas.
- 20 28) Mr. Hunter was not home, but Mr. James met with Mr. Hunter's sisters, Corney and
21 Myra Hunter. The said they live there with their brother, Zachariah Hunter.
- 22 29) Mr. James gave them a TCN to give to Mr. Hunter.
- 23 30) Mr. Hunter's sisters told Mr. James that they were relieved that the baby was taken
24 from their brother and his girlfriend, Ms. Moses.
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1 31) They said that there were concerned for the baby while he was in the parent's care.

2 Myra Hunter said she called for the ambulance for her nephew, Zepellin, because she
3 thought he had inhaled methamphetamine and was in medical distress.

4 32) CPS Investigator James provided a report on his initial investigation concerning the
5 allegations of this petition.
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7 **Placement**

8 33) On January 28, 2026, Jerry James, CPS investigator, placed the baby, Zepellin
9 Hunter, with his maternal aunt, Rissa Ethelbah, who signed an Agreement for
10 Placement of Child with Relative. Ms. Ethelbah said that she is willing to care for the
11 baby and to provide for his needs.

12 34) Mr. James gave the mother, Ms. Moses, a TCN. He also left a TCN for the father, Mr.
13 Hunter, with his sisters at his home in Blackpoint in Bylas.

14 35) Precautionary efforts will be made available for the Minor Child's protection
15 pursuant to CFPC Section 13. B. 1. The Minor Child is placed as a temporary ward
16 with the San Carlos Apache Children's Court and the San Carlos Tribal Social
17 Services Department. Minor child Zepellin SA Hunter is placed with his maternal
18 aunt, Rissa Ethelbah, at her home in Phoenix.
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20 36) Current address of Parents and Relatives:
21

22 **Parents:**

Mother Ayanna Moses
P.O. Box 197
Bylas, AZ 85530

25 Father Zachariah Hunter
26 P.O. Box 281
27 Bylas, AZ 85530
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1 Placement: Rissa Ethelbah, Maternal Aunt

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3 Address: 2761 E. Michigan Ave
4 Phoenix, AZ 85032

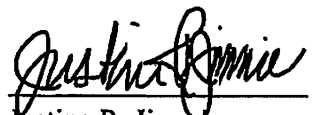
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6 **Shelter Care Hearing**

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

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12 38) Additionally, the Tribe requests, pursuant to CFPC Section 16, that a **Shelter Care**
13 **Hearing** be scheduled within ten (10) working days of the filing of this Child in Need
14 of Care Petition, pursuant to C.F.P.C. Section 16 (B), and that Mother Ayanna Moses
15 and Father Zachariah Hunter be provided notice of the Hearing pursuant to C.F.P.C.
16 Section 16(C).

17 I, Attorney Justine R. Jimmie, have read the foregoing and attest that the information
18 contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
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20 Signed and dated this 30th day of January, 2026.

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23 Justine R. Jimmie
24 Deputy Attorney General
25 San Carlos Apache Tribe
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