

LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS

**Tribal Court
Civil Division**



Court Mailing Address: 7500 Odawa Circle, Harbor Springs, MI 49740

Phone: 231-242-1462

ORDER CLOSING CASE FILE

Case No: C-144-0512

Laura Francine Skippergosh-Searles
Petitioner,

v.

Alvin Searles,
Respondent,

A final written Judgment of Divorce was entered in this Court on 8/2/2012. With all child support and custody matters being handled in Charlevoix County Circuit Court there is no reason for this Court to keep this case open.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that this case be closed.

2/25/14
Date

Hon. Allie Greenleaf Maldonado, Chief Tribal Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

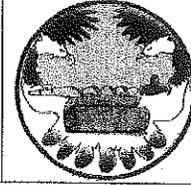
I certify that copies of this *Order Closing Case File* were served upon the parties by fax or First Class Mail.

2-25-2014
Date

Court Clerk

**LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA
INDIANS**

Tribal Court



7500 Odawa Circle, Harbor Springs, MI 49740

Phone: (231) 242-1462

Case No: C-144-0512

Petitioner:

Laura Francine Skippergosh-Searles

v.

Respondent:

Alvin Searles

ORDER OF SIMPLE DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

On July 26, 2012, a hearing was held to address the paternity of minor child _____, as well as determine the distribution of personal property and allocate marital debt, the Hon. James Genia presiding. At this hearing, Petitioner and Respondent were present.

On May 11, 2012, Petitioner filed a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage, with supporting documents, requesting that the Court grant a divorce. The parties averred that there was no real property to be divided, that the parties would agree to be awarded the personal property in their possession, and that child support and custody matters were being addressed in Charlevoix County Circuit Court.

JURISDICTION

The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) Tribal Court has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to WOS 13.203 because both Petitioner and Respondent are Tribal citizens of LTBB and Respondent has been a *bona fide* resident of the Tribal Jurisdiction for a period of at least 180 days prior to the filing of the action.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner is a LTBB Tribal Citizen, Enrollment Number (_____)
2. Respondent is a LTBB Tribal Citizen, Enrollment Number (_____);
3. the Parties were married on August 11, 2007, in Charlevoix Michigan;
4. the Parties have one child, _____, paternity of which is questioned by Respondent, with Petitioner having been granted sole physical and legal custody in Charlevoix County Circuit Court;

5. the Parties agree that their marriage has broken down irretrievably and that there remains no reasonable likelihood that the marriage can be preserved;
6. the Parties stopped living together as husband and wife on or about May 18, 2010;
7. Respondent has lived at _____ for approximately 15 months;
8. the Parties have no real estate; and
9. the Parties indebtedness that will be allocated by the Court is limited to a tax obligation to the Internal Revenue Service, a debt obligation to Dell, Inc., and a credit card debt to Bank of America.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Court finds that it has jurisdiction over this divorce proceeding for the Dissolution of Marriage between the Parties. Both Petitioner and Respondent are Tribal Citizens and Respondent has been a *bona fide* resident within the Tribal Jurisdiction at _____ for a period of at least 180 days, beginning approximately 15 months ago and continuing throughout the period of this action.

Further, the Court finds that the marriage between Petitioner and Respondent has broken down irretrievably and that there remains no reasonable likelihood that the marriage can be preserved. In addition, the Parties have mutually and voluntarily lived separate and apart for a period exceeding two years.

The Court agrees that the dissolution of the marriage between the Parties should be granted without regard to the fault of either party pursuant to WOS 13.205. Further, Respondent shall obtain a paternity test within thirty (30) days or the presumption of his paternity of the minor child will remain in effect. The Court agrees to a distribution of personal property under which property in each Party's possession will have title vested therewith, and the debts shall be allocated equitably between the Parties.

WHEREFORE, IT IS SO ORDERED:

1. A decree of divorce between Petitioner and Respondent is hereby **GRANTED**. The marriage is dissolved and the Parties are divorced.
2. Each Party is awarded the items of personal property in his or her possession, free and clear of any claim by the other party.
3. Petitioner's former name is restored to her and is legally changed from Laura Francine Skippergosh-Searles to Laura Francine Skippergosh.
4. The Parties have no Real Property for which judicial division is necessary, and neither shall have any interest in any after acquired property interest.

