

# *Bifurcated Tribal Courts*

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## Tribal Court in the singular, Bifurcated in the plural

Bifurcated Tribal Courts is how the Tribal Institute describes “a **court system** in which two or more divisions of a tribal court exist with **jurisdiction** to hear certain types of **cases.**”

Tribal Court systems or even Tribal Councils can agree to combine resources to form what is sometimes called one of the following:

\* Intertribal court system  
office

\* Satellite court

\* Regional court system

\* Others?

# Examples of Bifurcated Tribal Courts



# Tribal Agreements

A simple Memorandum of Agreement is signed with tribal resolution authority.

The MOA need not be complicated and sample ones have been developed at AVCP and some tribes have their own standard MOA templates.

Attach a copy of the Tribal Council resolution to the MOA which authorizes the MOA.

# What types of court(s) and other questions

1. What type or types of courts are in a bifurcated agreement?
2. How many tribes will be involved?
3. How will its judges be selected?
4. How do you agree on a clerk of court??