CCSAR PROTECTION ACT OF 2026

Act No. NFM-2026-CCSAR-002

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MENDOCINO — OFFICE OF THE HEAD CHIEF

Comprising: (1) the Act as amended; and (2) the Public Notice of Enactment

PART ONE — THE ACT

AN ACT OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MENDOCINO TO ESTABLISH THE CONFIRMED CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE REPORT (CCSAR) PROTOCOL, TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMMEDIATE ISSUANCE OF RESTRAINING ORDERS AND LOCATE ORDERS IN CASES INVOLVING CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE, AND TO DECLARE THE FINAL AUTHORITY OF THE GUARDIAN OVER THE WELLBEING OF THE CHILD

ACT NO. NFM-2026-CCSAR-002

Enacted by the Office of the President, National Federation of Mendocino, on this 18th day of November, 2026

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the National Federation of Mendocino, acting through the Office of the Head Chief and under the sovereign authority recognised in the Constitution of the Mendocino California Tribal Nations of the Mendocino Indian Reservation, bears responsibility for the protection of children affiliated with the Mendocino Indian Reservation and with the Devin Mallonee Foundation; and

WHEREAS the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, 25 U.S.C. §§ 1901 et seq., recognises tribal authority over child custody proceedings involving Indian children, and the welfare of the child is the paramount consideration in any question concerning the custody or upbringing of a child; and

WHEREAS a Suspected Child Sexual Abuse Report (SCSAR), once verified and converted into a Confirmed Child Sexual Abuse Report (CCSAR), presents an emergency requiring the immediate activation of protective legal mechanisms; and

WHEREAS children under twelve years of age are especially vulnerable to harm from abuse, and require heightened urgency in judicial and law-enforcement response; and

WHEREAS the wellbeing of a child is best determined by the child's guardian, and this Act is enacted on the fundamental principle that where the guardian is not the person whose conduct is the subject of the report, the guardian and no other person has the final say over the child's wellbeing, whether that other person be the Tribal Court, the Head Chief, or any agency or forum outside the jurisdiction of the Mendocino Indian Reservation;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it enacted by the authority of the National Federation of Mendocino as follows:

ARTICLE 1 — TITLE, PURPOSE, CONSTRUCTION, AND PARAMOUNT RULE

§ 1.01 — Short Title.
This Act may be cited as the "CCSAR Protection Act of 2026" and bears Act No. NFM-2026-CCSAR-002.

§ 1.02 — Purpose.
The purpose of this Act is to codify the protocol to be followed upon the conversion of a Suspected Child Sexual Abuse Report (SCSAR) into a Confirmed Child Sexual Abuse Report (CCSAR), and to mandate the immediate issuance of:
(a) a restraining order against the Suspect Listed in the Restraining Order; and

(b) a locate order directing law enforcement to locate the child,
where the child who is the subject of the CCSAR is under twelve (12) years of age.

§ 1.03 — Construction.
This Act shall be construed so as to give effect to § 1.06 (Paramount Rule: Final Authority of the Guardian) and to the Welfare Principle as defined in § 2.06. Where those provisions and any other provision of this Act are capable of more than one construction, the construction that preserves the Guardian's final authority shall be adopted. Headings are for convenience only. The singular includes the plural.

§ 1.04 — Non-Derogation.
Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish the jurisdiction of the Tribal Court, the authority of a Guardian recognised under § 2.10, or the sovereign authority of any recognised tribal nation.

§ 1.05 — Priority of Immediate Physical Safety.
Where any provision of this Act conflicts with the immediate physical safety of a child, the child's immediate physical safety prevails. Any person may take immediate, good-faith action limited to what is necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to a child. Any such action shall:
(a) be reported immediately to the Guardian (or, where the Guardian is disqualified under § 2.12, to the Alternate Guardian), to the Tribal Court, and to tribal law enforcement;
(b) be promptly reviewed by the Tribal Court under § 5.04;
(c) terminate as soon as the imminent danger has passed; and
(d) not be treated as conferring jurisdiction on any non-tribal court or agency, as creating any continuing authority outside the tribal government, or as a basis for the removal of the child from the Guardian's care beyond the emergency itself.

Emergency action under this section is a temporary measure. It does not transfer authority over the child's wellbeing, which remains with the Guardian under § 1.06.

§ 1.06 — Paramount Rule: Final Authority of the Guardian.

(a) The paramount rule. Where the Guardian of the child is not the Suspect Named in the Restraining Order Application, is not the Suspect Listed in the Restraining Order, and is not otherwise disqualified under § 2.12, **the Guardian has final authority over the wellbeing of the child.** That authority extends to placement, medical care, education, return of the child, and every other matter concerning the child's welfare.

(b) Not shared with the Tribal Court. The Guardian's authority under subsection (a) is not shared with, and may not be exercised by, the Tribal Court. The Tribal Court shall not substitute its own assessment of the child's wellbeing for the Guardian's determination, and shall grant the relief the Guardian requests under §§ 4.02 and 4.03.

(c) Not shared with the Head Chief. The Head Chief, acting in any capacity other than as Guardian, has no authority over the Guardian's determination under subsection (a), and may not approve, modify, delay, condition, or review it.

(d) Controlling construction. Where any provision of this Act is capable of more than one construction, the construction that gives fullest effect to this section shall be adopted. This section controls over §§ 5.01 to 5.05 in the event of any inconsistency.

(e) Sole exception. This section does not apply where the Guardian is disqualified under § 2.12, and then only to the extent of that disqualification. In every other case, and against every other party, the Guardian's authority under this section is final.

ARTICLE 2 — DEFINITIONS

§ 2.01 — "SCSAR."
"SCSAR" means a Suspected Child Sexual Abuse Report, being a report filed under tribal, foundation, or state protocol indicating a suspicion of Child Sexual Abuse, including physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, or severe neglect, which has not yet been verified. This term corresponds to the statutory "SCAR" (Suspected Child Sexual Abuse Report) under California Penal Code § 11165 et seq.

§ 2.02 — "CCSAR."
"CCSAR" means a Confirmed Child Sexual Abuse Report, being an SCSAR elevated after verification that the child has been abused or is at credible risk of imminent harm.

§ 2.03 — "Perpetrator" and "Suspect Listed in the Restraining Order."
"Perpetrator" means the person who is the subject of a CCSAR and who is named as the respondent in a restraining order issued or sought under § 4.02 of this Act. In this Act and in any instrument issued under it, the perpetrator shall be identified and referred to as the **Suspect Listed in the Restraining Order**. Where a restraining order has not yet issued, the person shall be referred to as the **Suspect Named in the Restraining Order Application** until such time as an order issues, at which point the designation in the preceding sentence applies. The designation is a status designation for the purpose of the protective protocol and does not constitute a finding of criminal guilt, which remains a matter for the court of competent jurisdiction.

§ 2.04 — "Child Under 12."
"Child Under 12" means a minor who has not attained the age of twelve years.

§ 2.05 — "Restraining Order."
"Restraining Order" means an order of the Tribal Court prohibiting the respondent from specified actions, including contacting, approaching, or harming the child, or removing the child from the jurisdiction.

§ 2.06 — "Welfare Principle."
"Welfare Principle" means the principle that the welfare of the child is the paramount consideration in any question concerning the custody, upbringing, guardianship, or estate of the child, as articulated in *J v C (C (J M) (An Infant), In re)* [1970] AC 668 and *In re Thain* [1926] Ch. 676.

The welfare of the child is determined by the Guardian recognised under § 2.10, and that determination is final under § 1.06. Neither the Tribal Court nor the Head Chief, acting in any capacity other than as Guardian, determines the welfare of the child. Where the Head Chief holds the office of Guardian, the Head Chief exercises the authority under this section as Guardian and not as Head Chief.

This section is subject only to § 2.12 (Guardian Disqualified as Subject of Report) and § 5.04 (Guardian Disqualified — Interim Protection). For the avoidance of doubt, "welfare" and "wellbeing" are used interchangeably in this Act, and the Guardian's determination of either is final under § 1.06 save where the Guardian is disqualified under § 2.12.

§ 2.07 — "Locate Order."
"Locate Order" means an order directing law enforcement to take any action reasonably necessary to locate the child and ensure the child's safety and return to a safe placement.

§ 2.08 — "Tribal Court."
"Tribal Court" means the court established under the authority of the Mendocino Indian Reservation.

§ 2.09 — "Court of Competent Jurisdiction."
"Court of Competent Jurisdiction" means, with respect to a tribal-nation child of the Mendocino Indian Reservation, the Tribal Court. No other court is a court of competent jurisdiction for that child unless the Tribal Court has expressly ceded jurisdiction in the particular matter, or binding federal law requires otherwise.

§ 2.10 — "Guardian."
"Guardian" means the person appointed as Child Guardian under a declaration entered in the official Guardianship Index of the National Federation of Mendocino, or appointed by the Tribal Court, and whose appointment is in force. The Guardian is the sole person with authority to determine the welfare of the child under § 2.06, including decisions on placement, medical care, education, and return of the child to the Guardian's care. Where the Head Chief is the Guardian, the Head Chief acts in the capacity of Guardian for the purposes of this Act. The Guardian's authority under this section is final under § 1.06 and is not subject to the approval, modification, delay, or review of the Tribal Court or the Head Chief, save where the Guardian is disqualified under § 2.12.

§ 2.11 — "Alternate Guardian."
"Alternate Guardian" means the person named as alternate in the guardianship declaration of the child, and whose appointment takes effect under § 5.04.

§ 2.12 — "Guardian Disqualified as Subject of Report."
A Guardian is disqualified as to a particular SCSAR or CCSAR where the Guardian is:
(a) the Suspect Named in the Restraining Order Application or the Suspect Listed in the Restraining Order for that report;
(b) the person whose conduct is the subject of that report, whether or not an order has yet issued; or
(c) a person who has been charged with, or is under investigation for, an offence against the child who is the subject of that report.

Disqualification under this section:
(i) is limited to the particular SCSAR or CCSAR identified;
(ii) takes effect upon the recording of the report or the filing of the application, whichever is earlier;
(iii) does not constitute a finding of wrongdoing;
(iv) does not affect the Guardian's authority in any other matter;
(v) does not affect the Guardian's authority under § 1.06 in respect of any other child; and
(vi) shall be recorded in the CCSAR Case File with a timestamp and the grounds.

ARTICLE 3 — MANDATORY TRIGGER UPON CCSAR CONVERSION

§ 3.01 — Verification and Conversion.
Upon receipt of an SCSAR, the receiving officer shall initiate verification procedures. If verification establishes a credible risk of abuse or imminent harm, the SCSAR shall be immediately converted to a CCSAR. The conversion shall be recorded in the CCSAR Register with a timestamp, the identity of the verifying officer, and a summary of the grounds for conversion. The recording shall state whether any Guardian is disqualified under § 2.12.

§ 3.02 — Mandatory Trigger.
Upon the conversion of an SCSAR into a CCSAR, and where the subject child is a Child Under 12, the CCSAR Trigger Protocol set out in Article 4 shall be initiated immediately and without delay. No administrative approval beyond the verifying officer's confirmation of the CCSAR shall be required to initiate the Protocol.

The Head Chief's role under this Act is administrative and does not extend to approval, modification, or delay of the Protocol or of the Guardian's determination under § 1.06.

§ 3.03 — Prohibition on Delay.
Any delay between the recording of a CCSAR and the initiation of the CCSAR Trigger Protocol shall be documented in writing, and any unexplained delay shall constitute a breach of duty under this Act.

ARTICLE 4 — CCSAR TRIGGER PROTOCOL

§ 4.01 — Immediate Internal Notification.
The verifying officer shall immediately notify: (a) the Guardian, or where the Guardian is disqualified under § 2.12, the Alternate Guardian; (b) the Tribal Court clerk; and (c) the foundation's designated child-welfare liaison. Notification to the Head Chief or designated duty officer shall occur for administrative record-keeping only, and shall not constitute a request for approval. Notification shall be by the fastest available means and shall be documented.

§ 4.02 — Restraining Order Application.
The officer shall prepare and file, on an ex parte basis where necessary, an application for a restraining order against the Suspect Listed in the Restraining Order. The application shall request, at a minimum, the following relief:
(a) a prohibition on contacting, approaching, or harming the child;
(b) a prohibition on removing the child from the jurisdiction of the Tribal Court or from the State of California without prior court permission or the written consent of the Guardian;
(c) a prohibition on removing the child from school or any childcare facility;
(d) any additional terms reasonably calculated to protect the child from further abuse or harm.

Where the Guardian is disqualified under § 2.12, the application shall name the Guardian as the respondent and shall seek the relief in subsection (b) against the Guardian.

§ 4.03 — Locate Order Application.
Contemporaneously with the restraining order application, the officer shall prepare and file an application for a Locate Order directing law enforcement to take any action reasonably necessary to locate the child and ensure the child's safety. The application shall state the child's age, the grounds for the CCSAR, whether any Guardian is disqualified under § 2.12, and the urgency of the situation.

§ 4.04 — Judicial Presentation.
The applications shall be presented to the Tribal Court. Where the Tribal Court is temporarily unavailable, the presenting officer shall seek an emergency sitting of the Tribal Court, and the matter shall be heard by the Tribal Court at the earliest possible time. Presentation to any non-tribal court shall occur only where the Tribal Court has expressly ceded jurisdiction in the particular matter or where binding federal law requires it, and any order so obtained shall be promptly presented to the Tribal Court for review.

The presenting officer shall inform the court that the child is a Child Under 12, that the CCSAR has been confirmed, whether any Guardian is disqualified under § 2.12, and that the Guardian's determination under § 1.06 is presented for effect under § 5.02.

§ 4.05 — Law Enforcement Transmittal.
Upon issuance of the Locate Order, the officer shall immediately transmit a certified copy to the appropriate law enforcement agency (tribal law enforcement, county sheriff, or municipal police)

and shall request confirmation of receipt and initiation of location efforts. The officer shall maintain a log of all communications with law enforcement.

§ 4.06 — Documentation.
Every action taken under this Article shall be documented in the CCSAR Case File, which shall include: the original SCSAR; the conversion record; any record of Guardian disqualification under § 2.12; the restraining order application and any order issued; the Locate Order application and any order issued; law enforcement transmittal receipts; and a chronology of all notifications.

ARTICLE 5 — JUDICIAL STANDARD AND RELIEF

§ 5.01 — Heightened Urgency.
The Tribal Court, upon presentation of a CCSAR involving a Child Under 12, shall treat the matter as one of heightened urgency, considering the child's tender age, the potential harm from abuse, and the legal and practical difficulties of protecting the child if removed from the jurisdiction. Nothing in this section authorises the Tribal Court to delay the grant of relief under § 5.03.

§ 5.02 — Welfare Principle.
The Tribal Court does not apply the Welfare Principle in place of the Guardian, and does not assess the child's wellbeing independently. The Court's sole function is to give effect to the Guardian's determination under § 1.06 by issuing the orders sought under §§ 4.02 and 4.03. The Court has no discretion to refuse, condition, or delay that relief, save as provided in § 5.03.

§ 5.03 — Mandatory Grant of Relief.
Where a CCSAR involving a Child Under 12 has been confirmed and the Guardian has requested relief under §§ 4.02 and 4.03, **the Tribal Court shall grant the relief requested, in the terms requested, and without modification.**

The Court may decline relief only where it finds, on the record, that the Guardian is disqualified under § 2.12 as to that report, or that the Guardian is unavailable and no Alternate Guardian has been appointed. A finding under this section shall be stated in writing, shall be limited to the specific relief declined, and shall be recorded in the CCSAR Case File.

§ 5.04 — Guardian Disqualified — Interim Protection.
Where a Guardian is disqualified under § 2.12 as to a particular SCSAR or CCSAR:

(a) the Alternate Guardian, if one has been appointed and is not also disqualified, exercises the authority of the Guardian under § 1.06 as to that report only, and the disqualification of the Guardian does not affect the Alternate Guardian's authority;

(b) if no Alternate Guardian has been appointed, or the Alternate Guardian is also disqualified, the Tribal Court shall act to protect the child for so long as the disqualification continues, and for

that limited purpose and limited time shall:
(i) grant the relief sought under §§ 4.02 and 4.03;
(ii) determine the child's interim placement consistent with the Welfare Principle and, where applicable, the placement preferences of 25 U.S.C. § 1915; and
(iii) appoint an interim Guardian expeditiously, in accordance with the guardianship declarations and the Welfare Principle;

(c) the Tribal Court's authority under subsection (b) is limited to the period of disqualification and to the particular report, and terminates upon the appointment of an interim Guardian or the resolution of the disqualification;

(d) the disqualified Guardian shall be given notice of any proceeding under this section and an opportunity to be heard, except where notice would place the child in imminent physical danger, in which case notice shall be given as soon as the danger has passed;

(e) the return of the child to the disqualified Guardian shall not be ordered while the disqualification continues; and

(f) the disqualification does not constitute a finding of wrongdoing, and shall be reviewed by the Tribal Court at the earliest opportunity.

§ 5.05 — Guardian's Determination Not Reviewable on the Merits.
The Guardian's determination of the child's welfare under § 1.06 and § 2.06 is not subject to review on the merits by the Tribal Court, by the Head Chief, or by any other court, agency, or forum. A court or agency before which the determination is presented shall give it effect, subject only to §§ 2.12, 5.03, and 5.04.

§ 5.06 — Law Enforcement Authority.
A Locate Order issued under this Act shall authorise law enforcement to take any action reasonably necessary to locate the child and ensure the child's safety, including entering premises, accessing records, and coordinating with other agencies, in accordance with applicable law.

ARTICLE 6 — COMPLIANCE, REVIEW, AND ENFORCEMENT

§ 6.01 — Breach of Duty.
Failure to initiate the CCSAR Trigger Protocol upon conversion from SCSAR to CCSAR shall constitute a breach of duty under this Act and may result in disciplinary action.

§ 6.02 — Post-Incident Review.
A post-incident review shall be conducted within fourteen (14) days of the resolution of any CCSAR to identify deficiencies and recommend improvements to the Protocol. The review shall examine whether any Guardian disqualification under § 2.12 was identified and recorded promptly, and whether the Guardian's determination under § 1.06 was given effect without delay.

§ 6.03 — Annual Report.
The Office of the Head Chief shall publish an annual report on the operation of this Act, including the number of SCSARs received, CCSARs confirmed, restraining orders issued, locate orders issued, children located, and the number of cases in which a Guardian was disqualified under § 2.12.

ARTICLE 7 — LEGAL AUTHORITIES AND RECOGNITION

§ 7.01 — International Instruments (Principle Only).
This Act is enacted with reference to the Hague Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. These instruments are cited as expressions of principle. The United States has not ratified either instrument, and neither is relied upon in this Act as binding federal law.

§ 7.02 — Tribal Law.
This Act is enacted under the authority of the Constitution of the Mendocino California Tribal Nations and with reference to the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, 25 U.S.C. §§ 1901 et seq.

§ 7.03 — State Law.
This Act is enacted with reference to California Penal Code § 11165 et seq. (Child Sexual Abuse reporting), California Family Code § 6200 et seq. (protective orders), California Family Code § 7570 et seq., and California Probate Code §§ 1500 and 1500.1.

§ 7.04 — Common Law.
This Act is enacted with reference to *J v C (C (J M) (An Infant), In re)* [1970] AC 668 and *In re Thain* [1926] Ch. 676.

§ 7.05 — Recognition.
This Act is intended to be given effect in any forum in which the Welfare Principle is applied, subject to the law of that forum and to compliance with its formalities.

ARTICLE 8 — EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPROVAL

§ 8.01 — Effective Date.
This Act takes effect upon approval by the Office of the Head Chief.

§ 8.02 — Approval.
APPROVED AND ENACTED by the Office of the Head Chief, Mendocino Indian Reservation, on this 16th day of November, 2026.

____/SS/____ /S/ ____
Lord Devin: Mallonee
Head Chief, National Federation of Mendocino

(Seal of the Office of the Head Chief)

ATTESTATION

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Office of the Head Chief to be affixed on this 16th day of November, 2026.

____/SS/____ /S/ ____
Lord Devin: Mallonee
Head Chief, National Federation of Mendocino
nationalfederationofmendocino.org

(Seal of the Office of the Head Chief)

PART TWO — PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENACTMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MENDOCINO — OFFICE OF THE HEAD CHIEF
NOTICE OF ENACTMENT
CCSAR PROTECTION ACT OF 2026
Act No. NFM-2026-CCSAR-002

Notice Reference: NFM-2026-PN-004
Date of Publication: November 18, 2026
Subject: Public Notice of the Enactment of the Confirmed Child Sexual Abuse Report (CCSAR) Protocol and the Paramount Rule of Guardian Authority

TO ALL PERSONS, AGENCIES, COURTS, LAW ENFORCEMENT BODIES, AND TRIBAL NATIONS TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 16th day of November, 2026, the Office of the Head Chief of the Mendocino Indian Reservation did enact the **CCSAR Protection Act of 2026, Act No. NFM-2026-CCSAR-002**, under the sovereign authority recognised in the Constitution of the Mendocino California Tribal Nations of the Mendocino Indian Reservation.

I. PURPOSE OF THE ACT

The Act codifies the protocol to be followed upon the conversion of a Suspected Child Sexual Abuse Report (SCSAR) into a Confirmed Child Sexual Abuse Report (CCSAR), and mandates that such conversion immediately trigger:
(a) an application for a restraining order against the Suspect Listed in the Restraining Order;

and
(b) an application for a locate order directing law enforcement to locate the child and ensure the child's safety,
in every case in which the child who is the subject of the CCSAR is under twelve (12) years of age.

The Act further declares, as its paramount rule, that where the Guardian is not the subject of the report, the Guardian and no other person has final authority over the wellbeing of the child.

II. SUMMARY OF OPERATIVE PROVISIONS

§ 1.06 — Paramount Rule: Final Authority of the Guardian. Where the Guardian is not the Suspect Named in the Restraining Order Application, not the Suspect Listed in the Restraining Order, and not otherwise disqualified under § 2.12, the Guardian has final authority over the wellbeing of the child, including placement, medical care, education, and return of the child. That authority is not shared with the Tribal Court and is not shared with the Head Chief acting in any capacity other than as Guardian. The Tribal Court shall grant the relief the Guardian requests and shall not substitute its own assessment of the child's wellbeing.

§ 1.05 — Priority of Immediate Physical Safety. Any person may take immediate, good-faith action limited to preventing imminent physical damage or harm to a child. Such action must be reported immediately, is promptly reviewed by the Tribal Court under § 5.04, terminates as soon as the danger passes, and does not transfer authority over the child's wellbeing.

§ 2.03 — Suspect Listed in the Restraining Order. The person who is the subject of a CCSAR and named as respondent in a restraining order is designated the "Suspect Listed in the Restraining Order." Before an order issues, the person is the "Suspect Named in the Restraining Order Application." The designation is a status designation and is not a finding of criminal guilt.

§ 2.12 — Guardian Disqualified. A Guardian who is the subject of the SCSAR or CCSAR, whose conduct is the subject of the report, or who is charged with or under investigation for an offence against the child, is disqualified as to that report only. Disqualification is not a finding of wrongdoing and does not affect the Guardian's authority in any other matter.

§ 3.02 — Mandatory Trigger. Upon conversion of an SCSAR into a CCSAR involving a Child Under 12, the CCSAR Trigger Protocol shall be initiated immediately and without delay. No administrative approval beyond the verifying officer's confirmation of the CCSAR is required. The Head Chief's role is administrative only.

§ 4.02 — Restraining Order Application. An application shall be filed, on an ex parte basis where necessary, seeking an order prohibiting the respondent from contacting, approaching, or harming the child; removing the child from the jurisdiction; or removing the child from school or childcare. Where the Guardian is disqualified, the Guardian is named as respondent.

§ 4.03 — Locate Order Application. Contemporaneously, an application shall be filed for a Locate Order directing law enforcement to take any action reasonably necessary to locate the child and ensure the child's safety.

§ 4.04 — Judicial Presentation. The applications shall be presented to the Tribal Court. Presentation to any non-tribal court shall occur only where the Tribal Court has expressly ceded jurisdiction or where binding federal law requires it.

§ 4.05 — Law Enforcement Transmittal. Upon issuance of a Locate Order, a certified copy shall be transmitted immediately to the appropriate law enforcement agency, with confirmation of receipt and initiation of location efforts recorded.

§ 5.01 — Heightened Urgency. The Tribal Court shall treat any CCSAR involving a Child Under 12 as a matter of heightened urgency, and may not delay the grant of relief under § 5.03 on that ground.

§ 5.02 — Welfare Principle. The Tribal Court does not apply the Welfare Principle in place of the Guardian and does not assess the child's wellbeing independently. Its sole function is to give effect to the Guardian's determination by issuing the orders sought.

§ 5.03 — Mandatory Grant of Relief. The Tribal Court shall grant the relief requested, in the terms requested, and without modification. It may decline only where the Guardian is disqualified under § 2.12 or the Guardian is unavailable and no Alternate Guardian has been appointed.

§ 5.04 — Guardian Disqualified — Interim Protection. Where the Guardian is disqualified, the Alternate Guardian acts. If there is no Alternate Guardian, or the Alternate Guardian is also disqualified, the Tribal Court grants the relief sought, determines interim placement consistent with the Welfare Principle and, where applicable, 25 U.S.C. § 1915, and appoints an interim Guardian expeditiously. The child is not returned to the disqualified Guardian while the disqualification continues.

§ 5.05 — Determination Not Reviewable on the Merits. The Guardian's determination is not subject to review on the merits by the Tribal Court, the Head Chief, or any other court, agency, or forum.

§ 6.01 — Breach of Duty. Failure to initiate the CCSAR Trigger Protocol upon conversion shall constitute a breach of duty under the Act.

III. DEFINITIONS

"**SCSAR**" means a Suspected Child Sexual Abuse Report indicating a suspicion of Child Sexual Abuse, including physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, or severe neglect, which has not yet been verified.
"**CCSAR**" means a Confirmed Child Sexual Abuse Report, being an SCSAR elevated after verification that the child has been abused or is at credible risk of imminent harm.

"**Perpetrator**" means the person who is the subject of a CCSAR and named as respondent in a restraining order, and who is designated the **Suspect Listed in the Restraining Order**.
"**Child Under 12**" means a minor who has not attained the age of twelve years.
"**Guardian**" means the person appointed as Child Guardian under a declaration entered in the official Guardianship Index or appointed by the Tribal Court, and who determines the welfare of the child under § 1.06.
"**Alternate Guardian**" means the person named as alternate in the guardianship declaration, whose appointment takes effect under § 5.04.
"**Locate Order**" means an order directing law enforcement to take any action reasonably necessary to locate the child and ensure the child's safety.

IV. LEGAL AUTHORITIES

The Act is enacted with reference to:
(a) **International Instruments (Principle Only)** — the Hague Convention of 19 October 1996 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Neither has been ratified by the United States, and neither is relied upon as binding law;
(b) **Tribal Law** — the Constitution of the Mendocino California Tribal Nations; and the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, 25 U.S.C. §§ 1901 et seq.;
(c) **State Law** — California Penal Code § 11165 et seq.; California Family Code § 6200 et seq.; California Family Code § 7570 et seq.; and California Probate Code §§ 1500 and 1500.1;
(d) **Common Law** — *J v C (C (J M) (An Infant), In re)* [1970] AC 668 and *In re Thain* [1926] Ch. 676.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE

The Act took effect upon approval by the Office of the Head Chief on November 18, 2026.

VI. NOTICE TO COURTS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

All courts, agencies, and law enforcement bodies having jurisdiction over the persons or residences of children affiliated with the Mendocino Indian Reservation or the Devin Mallonee Foundation are respectfully requested to take notice of this Act and to accord it such recognition as the law of the forum permits. The Office of the Head Chief is available to provide certified copies of the Act and of any order issued under it upon request.

VII. TEXT OF THE ACT

The full text of the CCSAR Protection Act of 2026 (Act No. NFM-2026-CCSAR-002) is published in full on the official public notice forum of the National Federation of Mendocino and is incorporated in this Notice by reference.

VIII. ATTESTATION

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Office of the Head Chief to be affixed on this 18th day of November, 2026.

____/SS/____ /S/ ____
Lord Devin: Mallonee
President, National Federation of Mendocino
nationalfederationofmendocino.org

Certificate of Publication
This Public Notice is published on the official public notice forum of the National Federation of Mendocino on November 18, 2026, in accordance with the sovereign authority of the Mendocino Indian Reservation.
Publication Date: November 18, 2026
Notice Reference: NFM-2026-PN-004
Act No.: NFM-2026-CCSAR-002