**TRESPASS**

Native Allotment and/or Restricted Town site Lot Owners have authority over their land. If you need help documenting a trespass on your property, contact the **Kawerak Land Specialists**. This will help to clearly identify the issue for our records, and for law enforcement, if needed. The following are examples of Trespass:

- Use of your property without permission.
- Structures placed on the property without consent.
- Removal of Natural Resources: timber, firewood, gravel, sand, gold or other minerals.
- Undocumented Easements: Roads, trails, footpaths, telephone lines, electric lines, pipelines, water & sewer and other utilities.
- Excavating, Dredging, and deposits of fill in marshes, lakes, rivers, etc.
- Dumping garbage, used cars, or refuse of any kind on your lands.
- Removal of Artifacts, and Mammoth or Ivory tusks.
- Disturbing graves.
- Damage to the surface of your land caused by heavy equipment, trucks, cars, ATV’s, Argo’s, 4-wheelers, or 6-wheelers, or any other instrument.

**BLM survey markers must not be disturbed. It is a federal offense to willfully remove or destroy them.**

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Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans

If you served in the military, or know of a family member that has served between the dates of **August 5, 1964 – December 31, 1971**, and they have not applied for a Native Allotment, or were previously denied an Allotment, please contact the **Kawerak Land Specialists** for further information. Surviving family members may also apply on behalf of deceased Veterans.

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**PROBATES**

**Did your family member who owns Native Allotment and/or Restricted Town site property pass away?**

Contact the **Kawerak Probate Specialists** to start the probate case, this is **only** way for these lands to pass on to the rightful heirs.

We work with surviving family on the case file for the Federal Judge who **must** be able to verify:

1) the land owner’s family
2) whether the land owner left a Last Will.

**NOTE:** State Probates are separate, and Local & Regional Corporations have their own Shareholder probate process.
The History of Restricted Native Lands

Alaska Native people acquired restricted lands through the 1906 Allotment Act, and the 1926 Town Site Act. In 1971 these acts were repealed with the passage of ANCSA, which meant that no one could apply for restricted lands after that date. Since then, most of the applicants in the Bering Strait Region have received a Deed for their Native Allotment, Town Site Lot, or both. However, there are still some applicants waiting for the Deed to their land, because the process of receiving a Native Allotment can take years to complete. The leading agency in this process is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). An applicant must prove use of the land along with proof of occupancy of the parcel. Until this is proved, the allotment is said to be in “Pending Status”. Afterward, the status changes to “Approved”.

The next step for the land owner is to wait for their land to be surveyed. Once the land is surveyed the owner or allotee receives the Deed for their land, issued by BLM. The land is then considered to be certified.

Preparing a Will

Last Wills provide a way for you to direct who inherits your Native Allotment and/ Restricted Town site Lot, thereby preventing fractured property.

You may also include whatever else you wish in your Will, such as houses, personal property, jewelry, boats, commercial fishery permits, vehicles, ATV’s, snowmobiles, etc.

Contact LMS staff for assistance with getting a Will prepared on your behalf:

Eva Dickson, 907-443-4320
Brian James, 907-443-4324
Christine Piscoya, 907-443-4323

You can make changes to your Will at any time.

Our Office can store your signed, witnessed, notarized Will in our safe until your federal probate is completed through our office.

ALL Wills are CONFIDENTIAL until we receive notice of passing from surviving family, at which time we would open it with their permission and then distribute copies to the executor named in the Will.