



AB 44 (2023) Tribal Access to CLETS Fact Sheet

The Office of the Attorney General and Office of Native American Affairs ([ONAA](#)) at the California Department of Justice (CA DOJ) address justice-related matters for Tribes throughout the state. This plays a key role in enhancing public safety by facilitating real-time access to critical law enforcement data for eligible Tribal governments and Tribal courts, as enabled under [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 44](#) (Ramos, 2023).

AB 44 requires CA DOJ to grant access to the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) to Tribal Law Enforcement (TLE) and/or Tribal courts of a federally recognized Indian Tribe meeting certain qualifications, as specified.

What is CLETS?

CLETS is a secure, state-managed network that provides real-time access to critical law enforcement data. Authorized under AB 44, CLETS is now available to eligible TLE and Tribal courts within the State of California, empowering Tribal communities to strengthen public safety while upholding sovereignty.



To learn about the artwork, visit <https://oag.ca.gov/nativeamerican/artwork>

How CLETS Benefits Tribal Communities and Why it Matters for Your Tribe

Through AB 44, qualified TLE Agencies and Tribal courts now have equitable access to CLETS, a critical public safety tool previously limited to federal, state, and local agencies.

Key benefits include:

- **Real-time data access:** Instantly retrieve criminal histories, restraining and protective orders, vehicle records, missing persons data, and more to make informed decisions during incidents.
- **Enhanced public safety and community protection:** Quickly verify threats to improve officer and community safety while helping prevent and respond to crimes, including domestic violence, human trafficking, and cases involving Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP).
- **Streamlined coordination:** Seamlessly connect with state, local, and federal agencies for collaborative responses to crime or emergencies.
- **Operational efficiency:** Integrate existing systems to reduce response times and administrative burdens.
- **Respect for sovereignty:** Equip Tribal governments with tools to exercise self-determination in public safety and criminal justice matters.

Example: A Tribal officer using CLETS can confirm a restraining order in seconds, enabling swift action to protect a victim, or access a suspect's criminal history to assess risks during a stop.

Accessing CLETS Through AB 44

California DOJ is committed to supporting eligible Tribes through every step of the process:

1. **Eligibility check:** Confirm your agency meets AB 44 requirements (e.g., federally recognized Tribe; established law enforcement unit).
2. **Application process:** Submit a CLETS application with CA DOJ assistance. We provide necessary application forms and applicable resources.
3. **Training and support:** Receive free training on CLETS usage, data security, and compliance.
4. **Ongoing assistance:** Dedicated CA DOJ staff are available to answer questions and troubleshoot issues.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is there a cost to use CLETS?

A: Yes, the CLETS host agency or the state will inform the Tribe of all fees that will be charged for the CLETS service, equipment rental, line costs and any additional services.

Q: How is data protected?

A: CLETS is a secure network with strict protocols to safeguard sensitive information, for example, It is required that each employee/volunteer/private contractor sign an Employee/Volunteer Statement form prior to operating or having access to CLETS terminals, equipment or information.

Q: Can Tribal courts access CLETS?

A: Yes, AB 44 recognized the importance of Tribal courts having access to CLETS so they can enter restraining and protective orders.

Get Started Today!

We're here to help your Tribe leverage CLETS to enhance public safety. For questions regarding AB 44, contact the AB 44 CLETS Specialist at (916) 203-8994 or AB44CLETSinfo@doj.ca.gov. For more details about AB 44 and Tribal Access to CLETS, visit: <https://oag.ca.gov/nativeamerican/ab44>. For any other questions, contact the Office of Native American Affairs at (916) 210-6474 or ONAA@doj.ca.gov.



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