



VAWA 2022 Clarifies the Authority of Alaska Tribes within Their Villages

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA 2022) includes several provisions that address public safety in Alaska Native Villages. These provisions help clarify the power of Alaska Tribes' governments to exercise civil and criminal jurisdiction in their Villages. VAWA 2022 does this by 1) reaffirming the tribal government's authority within the Village and 2) defining the term "Village."

1. Recognition of Tribal Authority

Reaffirming that tribal governments in Alaska have the right to make and enforce laws (both civil and criminal) for all Native people in their Villages

25 U.S.C. § 1305(a) states:

Congress recognizes and affirms the inherent authority of any Indian tribe occupying a Village in the State to exercise criminal and civil jurisdiction over all Indians present in the Village.

Clarification of civil jurisdiction to issue and enforce protection orders involving all persons

25 U.S.C. § 1305(b) addresses the civil jurisdiction of Alaska Tribes to issue and enforce protection orders for matters arising within the Village and applies to all persons, both Native and non-Native. The statute makes clear that a Tribe's authority to enforce protection orders includes civil contempt proceedings, exclusion of violators from the Village, and other appropriate mechanisms.

2. Definition of "Village"

VAWA 2022 includes a definition of "Village" for the purposes of identifying the territory within which a Tribe can exercise its jurisdiction:

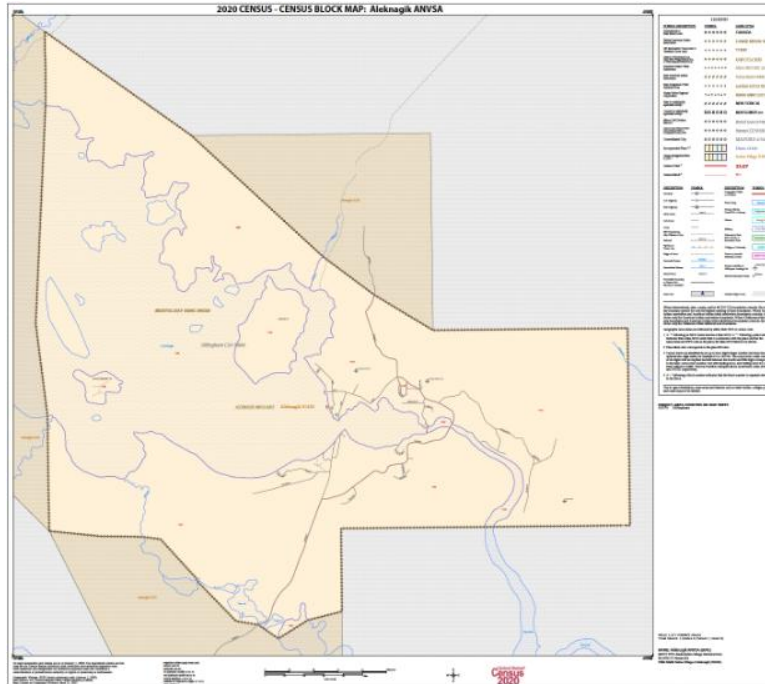
The term "Village" means the Alaska Native Village Statistical Area covering all or any portion of a Native village (as defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602)), as depicted on the applicable Tribal Statistical Area Program Verification map of the Bureau of the Census.

3. Village Maps (ANVSAs)

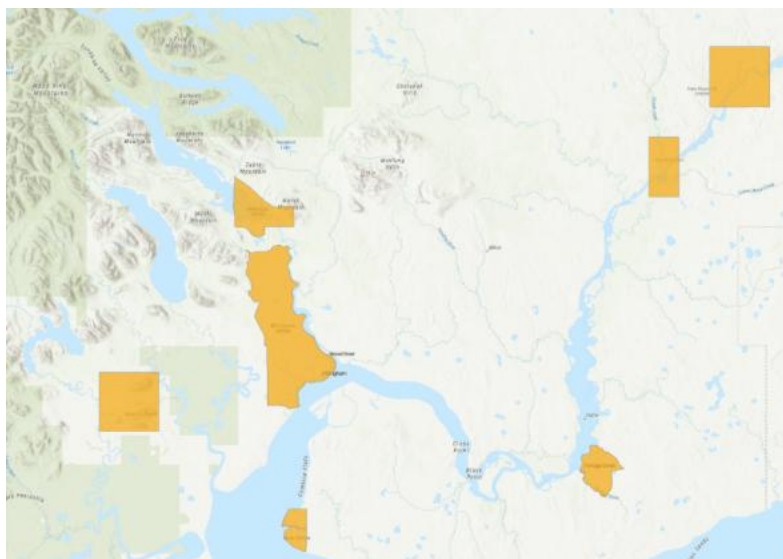
Maps of individual Villages, called Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas (ANVSAs), are maintained by the U.S. Census Bureau and can be found [here](#). A map of all Villages in Alaska can be accessed [here](#).

4. Example ANVSA Maps

Below is the map of the Aleknagik ANVSA (highlighted in tan) from the Census website.



The map of all Villages in Alaska allows the user to zoom in or out. This screenshot shows the Aleknagik ANVSA as well as nearby Villages' ANVSAs.



5. ANJC Supports Alaska Tribes

Any Alaska Tribe wanting to learn more about the impact of VAWA 2022, draft tribal codes, or otherwise strengthen their tribal justice system can contact ANJC at tribaljustice@anjc.net.

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