



GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

SACATON, AZ 85147

RESOLUTION GR-96-13

THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES AND APPROVES THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY RULES OF EVIDENCE

WHEREAS, the Gila River Indian Community Council (the “Community Council”) is the governing body of the Gila River Indian Community (the “Community”), a federally recognized and sovereign Indian tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Community Council is authorized by Article XV, Section 1(a)(9) of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Community (March 17, 1960) (the “Constitution”) to promote and protect the health, peace, morals, education, and general welfare of the Community and its members; and

WHEREAS, the Community Council is authorized by Article XV, Section 1(a)(17) of the Constitution to provide for the maintenance of law and order and the administration of justice by establishing a Community Court and police force and defining the powers and duties thereof; and

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2011, the Community Council directed the implementation of enhanced sentences (up to three years per criminal offense and up to nine years per criminal proceeding) under the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 (“TLOA”); and

WHEREAS, a workgroup comprised of representatives from Community departments and other organizations (Gila River’s Office of the General Counsel, Office of the Prosecutor, Defense Services Office, Police Department, Department of Rehabilitation and Supervision, Judicial Department, Probation, Tribal Social Services; and GRHC Behavioral Health, Four Rivers Indian Legal Services, and Tribal Court Advocate), which included Community members, met on a monthly basis during 2011 and most of 2012 to revise the Criminal Code, including enhanced sentences under TLOA; and

WHEREAS, while revising the Criminal Code a subcommittee of the workgroup simultaneously drafted Rules of Evidence for the Community Court that would be applicable in criminal and civil proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the Rules of Evidence will govern criminal and civil proceedings in the Community Court and are intended to ensure fairness in the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, the Community Council is considering the enactment of the revised Criminal Code which would necessitate the adoption of Rules of Evidence; and

WHEREAS, the Rules of Evidence include a provision that after the initial rules are approved by the Community Council any subsequent amendments would be through an advisory committee on rules and by order of the Chief Judge after notice and opportunity for comment by Community members. The advisory committee on rules, which will include interested Community members, at least one representative from the Office of the Prosecutor, at least one representative from the Defense Services Office, the Chief Judge, Associate Judges, and others designated by the Chief Judge shall, when there is representation from at least the Office of the Prosecutor, Defense Services Office, and Judicial, review all proposed amendments and recommend revisions and additional rules as the committee deems appropriate, draft amendments, submit any proposed amendment for public notice and comment, and submit proposed amendments to the Chief Judge for adoption or rejection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Community Council hereby authorizes and approves the Gila River Indian Community Rules of Evidence, as attached.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Gila River Indian Community Rules of Evidence shall be made publically available at all District Service Centers and the Ira Hayes Library, made available at the Department of Rehabilitation and Supervision, and made available on-line by January 1, 2014; and any future appellate court decisions concerning the Rules of Evidence shall be made available in the same manner within two weeks of the release and publication of the appellate decision.

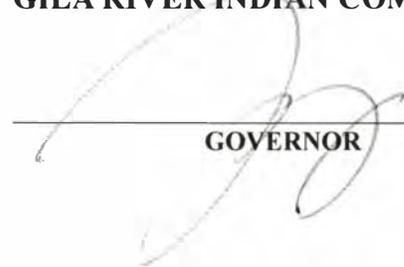
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Gila River Indian Community Rules of Evidence shall be effective January 1, 2014.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Governor, or in the Governor's absence, the Lieutenant Governor, is hereby authorized to take all steps necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to authority contained in Article XV, Section 1, (a) (7), (9), (17), (18), (b) (8), and Section 4 of the amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Gila River Indian Community, ratified by the tribe January 22, 1960, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on March 17, 1960, the foregoing resolution was adopted on the 15th of May 2013, at a regular Community Council meeting held in District 3, Sacaton, Arizona at which a quorum of 14 Members were present by a vote of: 13 FOR; 1 OPPOSE; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT; 0 VACANCIES.

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY



GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


COMMUNITY COUNCIL SECRETARY 5.23.13



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**GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
RULES OF EVIDENCE**

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ARTICLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Rule 101. Scope; Definitions.

A. **Scope.** These rules apply to proceedings in courts of the Gila River Indian Community to which the rules apply, along with exceptions, are set forth in Rule 1101.

B. **Definitions.** In these rules:

1. *Civil case* means a civil action or proceeding;
2. *Criminal case* includes a criminal proceeding;
3. *Public office* includes a public agency or a governmental department of the Gila River Indian Community;
4. *Record* includes a memorandum, report, or data compilation;
5. a *Rule prescribed by the Gila River Indian Community Court* means a rule adopted by the Gila River Indian Community Court or Court of Appeals and duly approved by or through the authority of the Gila River Indian Community Council;
6. a reference to any kind of written material or any other medium includes electronically stored information; and
7. *Statute* means, unless these rules provide otherwise, the Gila River Indian Community Code (“GRIC Code”) or a duly enacted ordinance of the Gila River Indian Community.

Rule 102. Purpose, Construction and Amendments.

A. **Purpose and Construction.** These rules should be construed as to administer every proceeding fairly, eliminate unjustifiable expense and delay, and promote the development evidence law, to the end of ascertaining the truth and securing a just determination.

B. **Amendments.** These rules may be amended by order of the Chief Judge after notice and opportunity for comment by Community members and review and analysis by an advisory committee on rules. The advisory committee on rules shall be comprised of interested Community members, at least one representative from the Office of the Prosecutor, at least one representative from the Defense Services Office, Chief Judge, Associate Judges, and others designated by the Chief Judge. The advisory committee on rules shall, when there is representation from at least the Office of the Prosecutor, Defense Services Office, and Judicial, review all proposed amendments and recommend revisions and additional rules as the committee

deems appropriate; draft amendments, submit any proposed amendment for public notice and comment; and submit any proposed amendment to the Chief Judge for adoption or rejection.

Rule 103. Rulings on Evidence.

A. **Preserving a claim of error.** A party may claim error in a ruling to admit or exclude evidence only if the error affects a substantial right of the party and:

1. if the ruling admits evidence, a party, on the record:
 - a. timely objects or moves to strike; and
 - b. states the specific ground, unless it is apparent from the context; or
2. if the ruling excludes evidence, a party informs the court of its substance by an offer or proof, unless the substance is apparent from the context.

B. **Not needing to renew an objection or offer of proof.** Once the court rules definitively on the record – either before or at trial – a party need not renew an objection or offer of proof to preserve a claim or error for appeal.

C. **Court’s statement about the ruling; directing an offer of proof.** The court may make any statement about the character or form of the evidence, the objection made, and the ruling. The court may direct that an offer of proof be made in question-and-answer form.

D. **Preventing the jury from hearing inadmissible evidence.** To the extent practicable, the court must conduct a jury trial so that inadmissible evidence is not suggested to the jury by any means.

E. **Taking notice of fundamental error.** A court may take notice of an error affecting a fundamental right, even if the claim of error was not properly preserved.

Rule 104. Preliminary Questions.

A. **In general.** The court must decide any preliminary question about whether a witness is qualified, a privilege exists, or evidence is admissible. In so deciding, the court is not bound by the evidence rules, except those on privilege.

B. **Relevancy that depends on a fact.** When the relevancy of evidence depends on whether a fact exists, proof must be introduced sufficient to support a finding that the fact does exist. The court may admit the proposed evidence on the condition that the proof be introduced later.

C. **Conducting a hearing so that the jury cannot hear it.** The court must conduct any hearing on the preliminary question so that the jury cannot hear it if:

1. the hearing involves the admissibility of a confession;
2. a defendant in a criminal case is a witness and so requests; or
3. justice so requires.

D. **Cross-examination a defendant in a criminal case.** By testifying on a preliminary question, a defendant in a criminal case does not become subject to cross-examination on other issues in the case.

E. **Evidence relevant to weight and credibility.** This rule does not limit a party's right to introduce before the jury evidence that is relevant to the weight or credibility of other evidence.

Rule 105. Limiting Admissibility That Is Not Admissible Against Other Parties or for Other Purposes.

If the court admits evidence that is admissible against a party or for a purpose – but is inadmissible against another party or for another purpose – the court, on timely request, must restrict the evidence to its proper scope and instruct the jury accordingly.

Rule 106. Remainder of or Related Writings or Recorded Statements.

If a party introduces all or part of a writing recorded statement, an adverse party may require the introduction, at that time, of any other part – or any other writing or recorded statement – that in fairness ought to be considered at the same time.

ARTICLE II. JUDICIAL NOTICE

Rule 201. Judicial Notice of Adjudicative Facts.

A. **Scope.** This rule governs only judicial notice of an adjudicative fact only, not a legislative fact.

B. **Kinds of facts that may be judicially noticed.** The court may judicially notice a fact that is not subject to reasonable dispute because it:

1. is generally known within the trial court's territorial jurisdiction; or

2. can be accurately and readily determined from sources whose accuracy cannot be reasonably questioned.

C. **Taking notice.** The court:

1. may take judicial notice on its own; or

2. must take judicial notice if a party requests it and the court is supplied with the necessary information.

D. **Timing.** The court may take judicial notice at any stage of the proceeding.

E. **Opportunity to be heard.** On timely request, a party is entitled to be heard on the propriety of taking judicial notice and the nature of the fact to be noticed. If the court takes judicial notice before notifying a party, the party, on request, is still entitled to be heard.

F. **Instructing the jury.** In a civil case, the court must instruct the jury to accept the noticed fact as conclusive. In a criminal case, the court must instruct the jury that it may or may not accept the noticed fact as conclusive.

ARTICLE III. PRESUMPTIONS

Rule 301. Presumptions in General in Civil Actions and Proceedings.

In a civil case, unless a statute or these rules provide otherwise, the party against whom a presumption is directed has the burden of producing evidence to rebut the presumption. But this rule does not shift the burden of persuasion, which remains on the party who had it originally.

ARTICLE IV. RELEVANCY AND ITS LIMITS

Rule 401. Test for Relevant Evidence.

Evidence is relevant if:

A. it has any tendency to make a fact more or less probable than it would be without the evidence; and

B. the fact is of consequence in determining the action.

Rule 402. General Admissibility of Relevant Evidence.

Relevant evidence is admissible unless any of the following provides otherwise:

- the Constitution of the Gila River Indian Community or the GRIC Code;
- an applicable federal statute;
- these rules; or
- other rules prescribed by the Gila River Indian Community Court.

Irrelevant evidence is not admissible.

Rule 403. Excluding Relevant Evidence for Prejudice, Confusion, Waste of Time, or Other Reasons.

The court may exclude relevant evidence if its probative value is substantially outweighed by a danger of one or more of the following: unfair prejudice, confusing the issues, misleading the jury, undue delay, wasting time, or needlessly presenting cumulative evidence.

Rule 404. Character Evidence not Admissible to Prove Conduct; Exceptions; Other Crimes.

A. **Character evidence generally.** Evidence of a person's character or a trait of character is not admissible for the purpose of proving action in conformity therewith on a particular occasion, except:

1. ***Character of accused or civil defendant.*** Evidence of a pertinent trait of character offered by an accused, or by the prosecution to rebut the same, or evidence of the aberrant sexual propensity of the accused or a civil defendant pursuant to Rule 404(C);
2. ***Character of victim.*** Evidence of a pertinent trait of character of the victim of the crime offered by an accused, or by the prosecution to rebut the same, or evidence of a character trait of peacefulness of the victim offered by the prosecution in a homicide case to rebut evidence that the victim was the first aggressor;
3. ***Character of witness.*** Evidence of the character of a witness, as provided in Rules 607, 608, and 609.

B. **Other crimes, wrongs, or acts.** Except as provided in Rule 404(C) evidence of other crimes, wrongs, or acts is not admissible to prove the character of a person in order to show action in conformity therewith. It may, however, be admissible for other purposes, such as proof of motive, opportunity, intent, preparation, plan, knowledge, identity, or absence of mistake or accident.

C. **Character evidence in sexual misconduct cases.** In a criminal case in which a defendant is charged with having committed a sexual offense, or a civil case in which a claim is predicated on a party's alleged commission of a sexual offense, evidence of other crimes, wrongs, or acts may be admitted by the court if relevant to show that the defendant had a character trait giving rise to an aberrant sexual propensity to commit the offense charged. In such a case, evidence to rebut the proof of other crimes, wrongs, or acts, or an inference therefrom, may also be admitted.

1. In all such cases, the court shall admit evidence of the other act only if it first finds each of the following:
 - a. The evidence is sufficient to permit the trier of fact to find that the defendant committed the other act.
 - b. The commission of the other act provides a reasonable basis to infer that the defendant had a character trait giving rise to an aberrant sexual propensity to commit the crime charged.
 - c. The evidentiary value of proof of the other act is not substantially outweighed by danger of unfair prejudice, confusion of issues, or other factors mentioned in Rule 403. In making that determination under Rule 403 the court shall also take into consideration the following factors, among others:
 - i. remoteness of the other act;
 - ii. similarity or dissimilarity of the other act;
 - i. the strength of the evidence that defendant committed the other act;
 - ii. frequency of the other acts;
 - iii. surrounding circumstances;
 - iv. relevant intervening events;
 - v. other similarities or differences;
 - vi. other relevant factors.
 - d. The court shall make specific findings with respect to each of (a), (b), and (c) of Rule 404(C)(1).
2. In all cases in which evidence of another act is admitted pursuant to this subsection, the court shall instruct the jury as to the proper use of such evidence.
3. In all criminal cases in which the Gila River Indian Community prosecutor intends to offer evidence of other acts pursuant to this subdivision of Rule 404, the Gila River Indian Community prosecutor shall make disclosure to the defendant as to such acts as required by Rule 15.2, Gila River Indian Community Rules of Criminal Procedure, or at such later time as the court may allow for good cause. The defendant shall make disclosure as to rebuttal evidence pertaining to

such acts as required by Rule 15.3, or at such other time as the court may allow for good cause. In all civil cases in which a party intends to offer evidence of other acts pursuant to this subdivision of Rule 404, the parties shall make disclosure as required by GRIC Code § 4.309, entitled “Discovery,” or at such later time as the court may allow for good cause shown.

4. As used in this subsection of Rule 404, the term “sexual offense” is as defined in GRIC Code § 5.811(C).

Rule 405. Methods of Proving Character.

A. **By reputation or opinion.** When evidence of a person’s character or character trait is admissible, it may be proved by testimony about the person’s reputation or by testimony in the form of an opinion. On cross-examination of the character witness, the court may allow an inquiry into relevant specific instances of the person’s conduct.

B. **By specific instances of conduct.** When a person’s character or character trait is an essential element of a charge, claim, or defense, or pursuant to Rule 404(C), the character or trait may also be proved by relevant specific instances of the person’s conduct.

Rule 406. Habit; Routine Practice.

Evidence of a person’s habit or an organization’s routine practice may be admitted to prove that on a particular occasion the person or organization acted in accordance with the habit or routine practice. The court may admit this evidence regardless of whether it is corroborated or whether there was an eyewitness.

Rule 407. Subsequent Remedial Measures.

When measures are taken that would have made an earlier injury or harm less likely to occur, evidence of the subsequent measures is not admissible to prove:

- negligence;
- culpable conduct;
- a defect in a product or its design; or
- a need for a warning or instruction.

But the court may admit this evidence for another purpose, such as impeachment, or – if disputed – proving ownership, control, or the feasibility of precautionary measures.

Rule 408. Compromise Offers and Negotiations.

A. **Prohibitive uses.** Evidence of the following is not admissible – on behalf of any party – either to prove or disprove the validity or amount of a disputed claim to impeach by a prior inconsistent statement or contradiction:

1. furnishing, promising, or offering – or accepting, promising to accept, or offering to accept – a valuable consideration in compromising or attempting to compromise the claim; and
2. conduct or a statement made during compromise negotiations about the claim.

B. **Exceptions.** The court may admit this evidence for another purpose, such as proving a witness' bias or prejudice, negating a contention of undue delay, or proving an effort to obstruct a criminal investigation or prosecution.

Rule 409. Offers to Pay Medical and Similar Expenses.

Evidence of furnishing, promising to pay, or offering to pay medical, hospital or similar expenses resulting from an injury is not admissible to prove liability for the injury.

Rule 410. Pleas, Plea Discussions and Related Statements.

A. **Prohibited uses.** Except as otherwise provided by statute, in a civil or criminal case, or administrative proceeding, evidence of the following is not admissible against the defendant who made the plea or participated in the plea discussions:

1. a guilty plea that was later withdrawn;
2. a nolo contendere or no contest plea;
3. a statement made during proceeding on either of those pleas under Gila River Indian Community Rule of Criminal Procedure 17.2 or a comparable federal procedure; or
4. a statement made during plea discussions did not result in a guilty plea or they resulted in a later-withdrawn guilty plea.

B. **Exceptions.** The court may admit a statement described in Rule 410(A)(3) or (4):

1. in any proceeding in which another statement made during the same plea or plea discussions has been introduced, if in fairness the statements ought to be considered together; or
2. in a criminal proceeding for perjury or false statement, if the defendant made the statement under oath, on the record, and with counsel present.

Rule 411. Liability Insurance.

Evidence that a person was or was not insured against liability is not admissible to prove whether the person acted negligently or otherwise wrongfully. But the court may admit the evidence for another purpose, such as proving witness' bias or prejudice or proving agency, ownership or control.

Rule 412. Admissibility of Evidence of Prior Sexual Conduct.

Opinion and reputation evidence of the victim's sexual conduct shall not be admitted in a prosecution under the GRIC Code. Evidence of specific instances of the victim's sexual conduct shall be admissible in a prosecution under the GRIC Code only to the extent that the following proposed evidence is relevant and material to a fact at issue and the inflammatory or prejudicial nature of the evidence does not outweigh the probative value of the evidence by clear and convincing evidence:

- A. Testimony establishing the victim's past sexual conduct with the defendant; or
- B. Testimony which directly refutes physical or scientific evidence.

ARTICLE V. PRIVILEGES

Rule 501. Privilege in General.

The common law — as interpreted by the Gila River Indian Community Court in the light of reason and experience — governs a claim of privilege unless any of the following provides otherwise:

- the Gila River Indian Community Constitution or GRIC Code;
- an applicable statute; or
- rules prescribed by the Gila River Indian Community Court.

Rule 502. Attorney-Client Privilege, Advocate-Client Privilege, and Work Product; Limitations on Waiver.

The following provisions apply, in the circumstances set out, to disclosure of a communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege, advocate-client privilege, or work-product protection.

A. Disclosure made in a Gila River Indian Community Court proceeding; scope of a waiver.

When the disclosure is made in a Gila River Indian Community Court proceeding and waives the attorney-client privilege, advocate-client privilege, or work-product protection, the waiver extends to an undisclosed communication or information in a Gila River Indian Community Court proceeding only if:

1. the waiver is intentional;
2. the disclosed and undisclosed communications or information concern the same subject matter; and
3. they ought in fairness to be considered together.

B. Inadvertent disclosure.

When made in a Gila River Indian Community Court proceeding, the disclosure does not operate as a waiver in a Gila River Indian Community Court proceeding if:

1. the disclosure is inadvertent;
2. the holder of the privilege or protection took reasonable steps to prevent disclosure; and
3. the holder promptly took reasonable steps to rectify the error.

C. Disclosure made in a proceeding in federal court, state court or another tribal court.

When the disclosure is made in a proceeding in federal court, state court or another tribal court and is not the subject of a court order concerning waiver, the disclosure does not operate as a waiver in a Gila River Indian Community Court proceeding if the disclosure:

1. would not be a waiver under this rule if it had been made in a Gila River Indian Community Court proceeding; or
2. is not a waiver under the law governing the federal, state or tribal proceeding where the disclosure occurred.

D. Controlling effect of a court order.

The Gila River Indian Community Court may order that the privilege or protection is not waived by disclosure connected with the litigation pending before the court—in which event the disclosure is also not a waiver in any other proceeding.

E. Controlling effect of a party agreement.

An agreement on the effect of disclosure in a Gila River Indian Community Court proceeding is binding only on the parties to the agreement, unless it is incorporated into a court order.

F. Definitions.

In this rule:

1. “attorney-client privilege” means the protection that applicable law provides for confidential attorney-client communications; and
2. “work-product protection” means the protection that applicable law provides for tangible material (or its intangible equivalent) prepared in anticipation of litigation or for trial. All of the work-product protection that applicable law provides as a result of a person’s status as an attorney will be interpreted as also applying to a person’s status as an advocate.
3. “advocate-client privilege” means all of the attorney-client privilege protection that applicable law provides as a result of a person’s status as an attorney will be interpreted as also applying to a person’s status as an advocate.

ARTICLE VI. WITNESSES

Rule 601. Competency to Testify in General.

Every person is competent to be a witness unless these rules or an applicable statute provides otherwise.

Rule 602. Need for Personal Knowledge.

A witness may testify to a matter only if evidence is introduced sufficient to support a finding that the witness has personal knowledge of the matter. Evidence to prove personal knowledge may consist of the witness's own testimony. This rule does not apply to a witness's expert testimony under Rule 703.

Rule 603. Oath or Affirmation to Testify Truthfully.

Before testifying, a witness must give an oath or affirmation to testify truthfully. It must be in a form designed to impress that duty on the witness's conscience.

Rule 604. Interpreters.

An interpreter must be qualified and must give an oath or affirmation to make a true translation.

Rule 605. Judge's Competency as a Witness.

The judge presiding at trial may not testify as a witness at the trial. A party need not object to preserve the issue.

Rule 606. Juror's Competency as a Witness.

A. **At the trial.** A juror may not testify as a witness before the other jurors at the trial. If a juror is called to testify, the court must give a party an opportunity to object outside the jury's presence.

B. **During an inquiry into the validity of a verdict in a civil case.**

1. **Prohibited testimony or other evidence.** During an inquiry into the validity of a verdict in a civil case, a juror may not testify about any statement made or incident that occurred during the jury's deliberations; the effect of anything on that juror's or another juror's vote; or any juror's mental processes concerning the verdict or indictment. The court may not receive a juror's affidavit or evidence of a juror's statement on these matters.

2. **Exceptions.** A juror may testify about whether:

- a. extraneous prejudicial information was improperly brought to the jury's attention;
- b. an outside influence was improperly brought to bear on any juror; or
- c. a mistake was made in entering the verdict on the verdict form.

Rule 607. Who May Impeach a Witness.

Any party, including the party that called the witness, may attack the witness's credibility.

Rule 608. A Witness's Character for Truthfulness or Untruthfulness.

A. **Reputation or opinion evidence.** A witness's credibility may be attacked or supported by testimony about the witness's reputation for having a character for truthfulness or untruthfulness, or by testimony in the form of an opinion about that character. But evidence of truthful character is admissible only after the witness's character for truthfulness has been attacked.

B. **Specific instances of conduct.** Except for a criminal conviction under Rule 609, extrinsic evidence is not admissible to prove specific instances of a witness's conduct in order to attack or support the witness's character for truthfulness. But the court may, on cross-examination, allow them to be inquired into if they are probative of the character for truthfulness or untruthfulness of:

1. the witness; or
2. another witness whose character the witness being cross-examined has testified about.

By testifying on another matter, a witness does not waive any privilege against self-incrimination for testimony that relates only to the witness's character for truthfulness.

Rule 609. Impeachment by Evidence of a Criminal Conviction.

A. **In general.** The following rules apply to attacking a witness's character for truthfulness by evidence of a criminal conviction:

1. for a crime that, in the convicting jurisdiction, was punishable by death or by imprisonment for more than one year, the evidence:
 - a. must be admitted, subject to Rule 403, in a civil case or in a criminal case in which the witness is not a defendant; and
 - b. must be admitted in a criminal case in which the witness is a defendant, if the probative value of the evidence outweighs its prejudicial effect to that defendant; and
2. for any crime regardless of the punishment, the evidence must be admitted if the court can readily determine that establishing the elements of the crime required proving--or the witness's admitting--a dishonest act or false statement.

B. **Limit on using the evidence after 10 years.** This subsection (B) applies if more than 10 years have passed since the witness's conviction or release from confinement for it, whichever is later. Evidence of the conviction is admissible only if:

1. its probative value, supported by specific facts and circumstances, substantially outweighs its prejudicial effect; and

2. the proponent gives an adverse party reasonable written notice of the intent to use it so that the party has a fair opportunity to contest its use.

C. **Effect of a pardon, annulment, or certificate of rehabilitation.** Evidence of a conviction is not admissible if:

1. the conviction has been the subject of a pardon, annulment, certificate of rehabilitation, or other equivalent procedure based on a finding that the person has been rehabilitated, and the person has not been convicted of a later crime punishable by death or by imprisonment for more than one year; or
2. the conviction has been the subject of a pardon, annulment, or other equivalent procedure based on a finding of actual innocence.

D. **Juvenile adjudications.** Evidence of a juvenile adjudication is admissible under this rule only if:

1. it is offered in a criminal case;
2. the adjudication was of a witness other than the defendant;
3. an adult's conviction for that offense would be admissible to attack the adult's credibility; and
4. admitting the evidence is necessary to fairly determine guilt or innocence.

E. **Pendency of an appeal.** A conviction that satisfies this rule is admissible even if an appeal is pending. Evidence of the pendency is also admissible.

Rule 610. Religious Beliefs or Opinions.

Evidence of a witness's religious beliefs or opinions is not admissible to attack or support the witness's credibility.

Rule 611. Mode and Order of Examining Witnesses and Presenting Evidence.

A. **Control by the court; purposes.** The court should exercise reasonable control over the mode and order of examining witnesses and presenting evidence so as to:

1. make those procedures effective for determining the truth;
2. avoid wasting time; and

3. protect witnesses from harassment or undue embarrassment.

B. Scope of cross-examination. A witness may be cross-examined on any relevant matter.

C. Leading questions. Leading questions should not be used on direct examination except as necessary to develop the witness's testimony. Ordinarily, the court should allow leading questions:

1. on cross-examination; and

2. when a party calls a hostile witness, an adverse party, or a witness identified with an adverse party.

Rule 612. Writing Used to Refresh a Witness's Memory.

A. Scope. This rule gives an adverse party certain options when a witness uses a writing to refresh memory:

1. while testifying; or

2. before testifying, if the court decides that justice requires the party to have those options.

B. Adverse party's options; deleting unrelated matter. An adverse party is entitled to have the writing produced at the hearing, to inspect it, to cross-examine the witness about it, and to introduce in evidence any portion that relates to the witness's testimony. If the producing party claims that the writing includes unrelated matter, the court must examine the writing in camera, delete any unrelated portion, and order that the rest be delivered to the adverse party. Any portion deleted over objection must be preserved for the record.

C. Failure to produce or deliver the writing. If a writing is not produced or is not delivered as ordered, the court may issue any appropriate order. But if the prosecution does not comply in a criminal case, the court must strike the witness's testimony or—if justice so requires—declare a mistrial.

Rule 613. Witness's Prior Statements of Witnesses.

A. Showing or disclosing the statement during examination. When examining a witness about the witness's prior statement, a party need not show it or disclose its contents to the witness. But the party must, on request, show it or disclose its contents to an adverse party's attorney.

B. Extrinsic evidence of a prior inconsistent statement. Extrinsic evidence of a witness's prior inconsistent statement is admissible only if the witness is given an opportunity to explain or deny the statement and an adverse party is given an opportunity to examine the witness about it, or if justice so requires. This subdivision (B) does not apply to an opposing party's statement under Rule 801(D)(2).

Rule 614. Court's Calling or Examining a Witnesses.

A. **Calling.** The court may call a witness on its own or at a party's request. Each party is entitled to cross-examine the witness.

B. **Examining.** The court may examine a witness regardless of who calls the witness.

C. **Objections.** A party may object to the court's calling or examining a witness either at that time or at the next opportunity when the jury is not present.

Rule 615. Excluding Witnesses.

At a party's request, the court must order witnesses excluded so that they cannot hear other witnesses' testimony. Or the court may do so on its own. But this rule does not authorize excluding:

A. a party who is a natural person;

B. an officer or employee of a party that is not a natural person, after being designated as the party's representative by its attorney;

C. a person whose presence a party shows to be essential to presenting the party's claim or defense;

D. a person authorized by statute to be present; or

E. a victim of crime, as defined by the GRIC Code, who wishes to be present during proceedings against the defendant.

ARTICLE VII. OPINIONS AND EXPERT TESTIMONY

Rule 701. Opinion Testimony by Lay Witnesses.

If a witness is not testifying as an expert, testimony in the form of an opinion is limited to one that is:

- A. rationally based on the witness's perception;
- B. helpful to clearly understanding the witness's testimony or to determining a fact in issue; and
- C. not based on scientific, technical, or other specialized knowledge within the scope of Rule 702.

Rule 702. Testimony by Expert Witnesses.

A witness who is qualified as an expert by knowledge, skill, experience, training, or education may testify in the form of an opinion or otherwise if:

- A. the expert's scientific, technical, or other specialized knowledge will help the trier of fact to understand the evidence or to determine a fact in issue;
- B. the testimony is based on sufficient facts or data;
- C. the testimony is the product of reliable principles and methods; and
- D. the expert has reliably applied the principles and methods to the facts of the case.

Rule 703. Bases of an Expert's Opinion Testimony.

An expert may base an opinion on facts or data in the case that the expert has been made aware of or personally observed. If experts in the particular field would reasonably rely on those kinds of facts or data in forming an opinion on the subject, they need not be admissible for the opinion to be admitted. But if the facts or data would otherwise be inadmissible, the proponent of the opinion may disclose them to the jury only if their probative value in helping the jury evaluate the opinion substantially outweighs their prejudicial effect.

Rule 704. Opinion on an Ultimate Issue.

A. **In general--not automatically objectionable.** An opinion is not objectionable just because it embraces an ultimate issue.

B. **Exception.** In a criminal case, an expert witness must not state an opinion about whether the defendant did or did not have a mental state or condition that constitutes an element of the crime charged or of a defense. Those matters are for the trier of fact alone.

Rule 705. Disclosing the Facts or Data Underlying an Expert's Opinion.

Unless the court orders otherwise, an expert may state an opinion--and give the reasons for it--without first testifying to the underlying facts or data. But the expert may be required to disclose those facts or data on cross-examination.

Rule 706. Court Appointed Expert Witnesses.

A. **Appointment process.** On a party’s motion or on its own, the court may order the parties to show cause why expert witnesses should not be appointed and may ask the parties to submit nominations. The court may appoint any expert that the parties agree on and any of its own choosing. But the court may only appoint someone who consents to act.

B. **Expert’s role.** The court must inform the expert of the expert’s duties. The court may do so in writing and have a copy filed with the clerk or may do so orally at a conference in which the parties have an opportunity to participate. The expert:

1. must advise the parties of any findings the expert makes;
2. may be deposed by any party;
3. may be called to testify by the court or any party; and
4. may be cross-examined by any party, including the party that called the expert.

C. **Compensation.** The expert is entitled to a reasonable compensation, as determined and provided by the court. Except as otherwise provided by law, appointment of an expert by the court is subject to the availability of funds or the agreement of the parties concerning compensation.

D. **Disclosing the appointment to the jury.** The court may authorize disclosure to the jury that the court appointed the expert.

E. **Parties’ choice of their own experts.** This rule does not limit a party in calling its own experts.

ARTICLE VIII. HEARSAY

Rule 801. Definitions.

The following definitions apply under this article:

A. **Statement.** “Statement” means a person’s oral assertion, written assertion or nonverbal conduct, if the person intended it as an assertion.

B. **Declarant.** “Declarant” means the person who made the statement.

C. **Hearsay.** “Hearsay” means a statement that:

1. the declarant does not make while testifying at the current trial or hearing; and
2. a party offers in evidence to prove the truth of the matter asserted in the statement.

D. **Statements that are not hearsay.** A statement that meets the following conditions is not hearsay:

1. **A declarant-witness’s prior statement.** The declarant testifies and is subject to cross-examination about a prior statement, and the statement:

- a. is inconsistent with the declarant's testimony,
- b. is consistent with the declarant's testimony and is offered to rebut an express or implied charge that the declarant recently fabricated it or acted from a recent improper influence or motive in so testifying; or
- c. identifies a person as someone the declarant perceived earlier.

2. **An opposing party’s statement.** The statement is offered against an opposing party and:

- a. was made by the party in an individual or representative capacity;
- b. is one the party manifested that it adopted or believed to be true;
- c. was made by a person whom the party authorized to make a statement on the subject;
- d. was made by the party’s agent or employee on a matter within the scope of that relationship and while it existed; or
- e. was made by the party’s coconspirator during and in furtherance of the conspiracy.

The statement must be considered but does not by itself establish the declarant’s authority under (c); the existence or scope of the relationship under (d); or the existence of the conspiracy or participation in it under (e).

Rule 802. The Rule Against Hearsay.

Hearsay is not admissible unless any of the following provides otherwise:

- an applicable Gila River Indian Community constitutional provision or statute;

- these rules; or
- other rules prescribed by the Gila River Indian Community Court.

Rule 803. Exceptions to the Rule Against Hearsay – Regardless of Whether the Declarant Is Available as a Witness.

The following are not excluded by the rule against hearsay, regardless of whether the declarant is available as a witness:

A. **Present sense impression.** A statement describing or explaining an event or condition, made while or immediately after the declarant perceived it.

B. **Excited utterance.** A statement relating to a startling event or condition, made while the declarant was under the stress of excitement that it caused.

C. **Then existing mental, emotional, or physical condition.** A statement of the declarant's then-existing state of mind (such as motive, intent or plan) or emotional, sensory, or physical condition (such as mental feelings, pain, or bodily health), but not including a statement of memory or belief to prove the fact remembered or believed unless it relates to the validity or terms of declarant's will.

D. **Statements made for medical diagnosis or treatment.** A statement that:

1. is made for – and is reasonably pertinent to – medical diagnosis or treatment; and
2. describes medical history; past or present symptoms, or sensations; their inception; or their general cause

E. **Recorded recollection.** A record that:

1. is on a matter the witness once knew about but now cannot recall well enough to testify fully and accurately;
2. was made or adopted by the witness when the matter was fresh in the witness's memory; and
3. accurately reflects the witness's knowledge.

If admitted, the record may be read into evidence but may be received as an exhibit only if offered by an adverse party.

F. **Records of regularly conducted activity.** A record of an act, event, condition, opinion, or diagnosis, if:

1. the record was made at or near the time by – or from information transmitted by – someone with knowledge;
2. the record was a regular practice of that activity,
3. made and kept entirely in the course of that regularly conducted business activity,
4. all these conditions are shown by the testimony of the custodian or another qualified witness, or by a certification that complies with Rule 902(K) or (L) or with a statute permitting certification; and
5. neither the source of information nor the method or circumstances of preparation indicate a lack of trustworthiness.

G. **Absence of a record of a regularly conducted activity.** Evidence that a matter is not included in a record described in (F) if:

1. the evidence is admitted to prove that the matter did not occur or exist;
2. a record was regularly kept for a matter of that kind; and
3. neither the possible source of the information nor other circumstances indicate a lack of trustworthiness.

H. **Public records.** A record or statement of a public office if:

1. it sets out:
 - a. the office's activities;
 - b. a matter observed while under a legal duty to report, but not including, in a criminal case, a matter observed by law enforcement personnel; or
 - c. in a civil case or against the government in a criminal case, factual findings from a legally authorized investigation; and
2. neither the source of information nor other circumstances indicate a lack of trustworthiness.

I. **Public records of vital statistics.** A record of a birth, death, or marriage, if reported to a public office in accordance with a legal duty.

J. **Absence of public record.** Testimony – or a certification under Rule 902 – that a diligent search failed to disclose a public record or statement if the testimony or certification is admitted to prove that:

1. the record or statement does not exist; or

2. a matter did not occur or exist, if a public office regularly kept a record or statement for a matter of that kind.

K. Records of religious organizations concerning personal or family history. A Statement of birth, legitimacy, ancestry, marriage, divorce, death, relationship by blood or marriage, or similar facts of personal or family history, contained in a regularly kept record of a religious organization.

L. Certificates of marriage, baptism, and similar ceremonies. A statements of fact contained in a certificate:

1. made by a person who is authorized by a religious organization or by law to perform the act certified;
2. attesting that the person performed a marriage or similar ceremony or administered a sacrament; and
3. purporting to have been issued at the time of the act or within a reasonable time after it.

M. Family records. A statement of fact about personal or family history contained in a family record, such as a Bible, genealogy, chart, engraving on a ring, inscription on a family portrait, or engraving on an urn, crypt, or burial marker.

N. Records of documents that affect an interest in property. The record of a document purports to establish or affect an interest in property if:

1. the record is admitted to prove the content of the original recorded document, along with its signing and its delivery by each person who purports to sign it;
2. the record is kept in a public office; and
3. a statute of the public office's jurisdiction that authorizes recording documents of that kind in that office.

O. Statements in documents that affect an interest in property. A statement contained in a document that purports to establish or affect an interest in property if the matter stated was relevant to the document's purpose – unless later dealings with the property are inconsistent with the truth of the statement or the purport of the document.

P. Statements in ancient documents. A statement in a document that is at least 20 years old and whose authenticity is established.

Q. Market reports and similar commercial publications. Market quotations, lists, directories, or other compilations that are generally relied on by the public or by persons in particular occupations.

R. Statements in learned treatises, periodicals, or pamphlets. A statement contained in a treatise, periodical, or pamphlet if:

1. the statement is called to the attention of an expert witness on cross-examination or relied on by the expert on direct examination; and
2. the publication is established as a reliable authority by the expert's admission or testimony, by another's expert testimony, or by judicial notice.

If admitted, the statement may be read into evidence but not received as an exhibit.

S. Reputation concerning personal or family history. A reputation among a person's family by blood, adoption, or marriage – or among a person's associates, or in the community – concerning a person's birth, adoption, legitimacy, ancestry, marriage, divorce, death, relationship by blood, adoption, or marriage, or similar facts of personal or family history.

T. Reputation concerning boundaries or general history. A Reputation in a community – arising before the controversy – concerning boundaries land in the community or customs that affect the land, or concerning general historical events important to the community, State, or nation.

U. Reputation concerning character. A reputation among a person's character associates or in the community concerning the person's character.

V. Judgment of previous conviction. Evidence of a final judgment of conviction if:

1. the judgment was entered after a trial or guilty plea, but not a nolo contendere plea;
2. the conviction was for a crime punishable by death or imprisonment for more than a year;
3. the evidence is admitted to prove any fact essential to the judgment; and
4. when offered by the prosecutor in a criminal case for a pupose other than impeachment, the judgment was against the defendant.

The pendency of an appeal may be shown but does not affect admissibility.

W. Judgments involving personal, family, or general history or a boundary. A judgment that is admitted to prove a matter of personal, family or general history, or boundaries, if the matter:

1. was essential to the judgment; and
2. could be proved by evidence of reputation.

X. **Former testimony (non-criminal action or proceeding).** Except in a criminal action or proceeding, testimony given as a witness at another hearing of the same or different proceeding, or in a deposition taken in compliance with law in the course of the same or another proceeding, if the party against whom the testimony is now offered, or a predecessor in interest, had an opportunity and similar motive to develop the testimony by direct, cross, or redirect examination.

Rule 804. Exceptions to the Rule Against Hearsay – When the Declarant is Unavailable as a Witness.

A. **Criteria for being unavailable.** A declarant is considered to be unavailable as a witness if the declarant:

1. is exempted from testifying about the subject matter of the declarant's statement because the court rules that a privilege applies;
2. refuses to testify about the subject matter despite a court order to do so;
3. testifies to not remembering the subject matter;
4. cannot be present or testify at the trial because of death or then-existing infirmity physical illness, or mental illness;
5. is absent from the trial or hearing and the statement's proponent has not been able, by process or other reasonable means, to procure:
 - a. the declarant's attendance, in the case of a hearsay exception under Rule 804(B)(1) or (5); or
 - b. the declarant's attendance or testimony, in the case of a hearsay exception under Rule 804(B)(2), (3), or (4).

But this subsection (a) does not apply if the statement's proponent procured or wrongfully caused the declarant's unavailability as a witness in order to prevent the declarant from attending or testifying.

B. **The exceptions.** The following are not excluded by the rule against hearsay if the declarant is unavailable as a witness:

1. **Former testimony in criminal case.** Testimony that:

- a. was made under oath by a party or witness during a previous judicial proceeding or a deposition under Gila River Indian Community Rule of Criminal Procedure 15.4 shall be admissible in evidence if:
 - i. The party against whom the former testimony is offered was a party to the action or proceeding during which a statement was given and had the right and opportunity to cross-examine the declarant with an interest and motive similar to that which the party now has (no person who was unrepresented by counsel at the proceeding during which a statement was made shall be deemed to have had the right and opportunity to cross-examine the declarant, unless such representation was waived) and
 - ii. The declarant is unavailable as a witness, or is present and subject to cross-examination.
 - b. The admissibility of former testimony under this subsection is subject to the same limitations and objections as though the declarant were testifying at the hearing, except that the former testimony offered under this subsection is not subject to:
 - i. Objections to the form of the question which were not made at the time the prior testimony was given.
 - ii. Objections based on the competency or privilege which did not exist at the time the former testimony was given.
2. **Statement under the belief of imminent death.** In a prosecution for homicide or in a civil case, a statement that the declarant, while believing the declarant's death to be imminent, made about its cause or circumstances.
 3. **Statement against interest.** A statement that:
 - a. a reasonable person in the declarant's position would have made only if the person believed it to be true because, when made, it was so contrary to the declarant's proprietary or pecuniary interest, or had so great a tendency to invalidate the declarant's claim against someone else or to expose the declarant to civil or criminal liability; and
 - b. is supported by corroborating circumstances that clearly indicate its trustworthiness, if it is offered in a criminal case as one that tends to expose the declarant to criminal liability.
 4. **Statement of personal or family history.** A statement about

- a. the declarant's own birth, adoption, legitimacy, ancestry, marriage, divorce, relationship by blood, adoption, or marriage, or similar facts of personal or family history, even though the declarant had no way of acquiring personal knowledge about that fact; or
- b. another person concerning any of these facts, as well as death, if the declarant was related to the person by blood, adoption, or marriage or was so intimately associated with the person's family that the declarant's information is likely to be accurate.

Rule 805. Hearsay Within Hearsay.

Hearsay within hearsay is not excluded by the rule against hearsay if each part of the combined statements conforms with an exception to the rule.

Rule 806. Attacking and Supporting the Declarant's Credibility.

When a hearsay statement – or a statement described in Rule 801(D)(2)(c), (d), or (e) – has been admitted in evidence, the declarant's credibility may be attacked, and then supported, by any evidence that would be admissible for those purposes if declarant had testified as a witness. The court may admit evidence of the declarant's inconsistent statement or conduct, regardless of when it occurred or whether the declarant had an opportunity to explain or deny it. If the party against whom the statement was admitted calls the declarant as a witness, the party may examine the declarant on the statement as if on cross-examination.

Rule 807. Residual Exception.

A. **In general.** Under the following circumstances, a hearsay statement is not excluded by the rule against hearsay even if the statement is not specifically covered by a hearsay exception in Rule 803 or 804:

1. the statement has equivalent circumstantial guarantees of trustworthiness;
2. it is offered as evidence of a material fact;
3. it is more probative on the point for which it is offered than any other evidence that the proponent can obtain through reasonable efforts; and
4. admitting it will best serve the purposes of these rules and the interests of justice.

B. **Notice.** The statement is admissible only if, before the trial or hearing, the proponent gives an adverse party reasonable notice of the intent to offer the statement and its

particulars, including the declarant's name and address, so that the party has a fair opportunity to meet it.

ARTICLE IX. AUTHENTICATION AND IDENTIFICATION

Rule 901. Authenticating and Identifying Evidence.

A. **In General.** To satisfy the requirement of authenticating or identifying an item of evidence, the proponent must produce evidence sufficient to support a finding that the item is what the proponent claims it is.

B. **Examples.** The following are examples only--not a complete list--of evidence that satisfies the requirement:

1. **Testimony of a witness with knowledge.** Testimony that an item is what it is claimed to be.
2. **Nonexpert opinion about handwriting.** A non-expert's opinion that handwriting is genuine, based on a familiarity with it that was not acquired for the current litigation.
3. **Comparison by an expert witness or the trier of fact.** A comparison with an authenticated specimen by an expert witness or the trier of fact.
4. **Distinctive characteristics and the like.** The appearance, contents, substance, internal patterns, or other distinctive characteristics of the item, taken together with all the circumstances.
5. **Opinion about a voice.** An opinion identifying a person's voice—whether heard firsthand or through mechanical or electronic transmission or recording—based on hearing the voice at any time under circumstances that connect it with the alleged speaker.
6. **Evidence about a telephone conversation.** For a telephone conversation, evidence that a call was made to the number assigned at the time to:
 - a. a particular person, if circumstances, including self-identification, show that the person answering was the one called; or
 - b. a particular business, if the call was made to a business and the call related to business reasonably transacted over the telephone.
7. **Evidence about Public records.** Evidence that:

- a. a document was recorded or filed in a public office as authorized by law; or
 - b. a purported public record or statement is from the office where items of this kind are kept.
8. **Evidence about ancient documents or data compilations.** For a document or data compilation, evidence that it:
- a. is in a condition that creates no suspicion about its authenticity;
 - b. was in a place where, if authentic, it would likely be; and
 - c. is at least 20 years old when offered.
9. **Evidence about a process or system.** Evidence describing a process or system and showing that it produces an accurate result.
10. **Methods provided by a statute or rule.** Any method of authentication or identification allowed by a statute or a rule prescribed by the Gila River Indian Community Court.

Rule 902. Evidence That Is Self-Authenticating.

The following items of evidence are self-authenticating; they require no extrinsic evidence of authenticity in order to be admitted:

- A. **Domestic public documents that are sealed and signed.** A document that bears:
 - 1. a seal purporting to be that of the United States; any state, district, commonwealth, territory, federally recognized Indian tribe, or insular possession of the United States; the former Panama Canal Zone; the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; a political subdivision of any of these entities; or a department, agency, or officer of any entity named above; and
 - 2. a signature purporting to be an execution or attestation.
- B. **Domestic public documents that are not sealed but are signed and certified.** A document that bears no seal if:
 - 1. it bears the signature of an officer or employee of an entity named in Rule 902(A)(1); and

2. another public officer who has a seal and official duties within that same entity certifies under seal--or its equivalent--that the signer has the official capacity and that the signature is genuine.

C. **Foreign public documents.** A document that purports to be signed or attested by a person who is authorized by a foreign country's law to do so. The document must be accompanied by a final certification that certifies the genuineness of the signature and official position of the signer or attester--or of any foreign official whose certificate of genuineness relates to the signature or attestation or is in a chain of certificates of genuineness relating to the signature or attestation. The certification may be made by a secretary of a United States embassy or legation; by a consul general, vice consul, or consular agent of the United States; or by a diplomatic or consular official of the foreign country assigned or accredited to the United States. If all parties have been given a reasonable opportunity to investigate the document's authenticity and accuracy, the court may, for good cause, either:

1. order that it be treated as presumptively authentic without final certification; or
2. allow it to be evidenced by an attested summary with or without final certification.

D. **Certified copies of public records.** A copy of an official record--or a copy of a document that was recorded or filed in a public office as authorized by law--if the copy is certified as correct by:

1. the custodian or another person authorized to make the certification; or
2. a certificate that complies with Rule 902(A), (B), or (C), a statute, or a rule prescribed by the Gila River Indian Community Court.

E. **Official publications.** A book, pamphlet, or other publication purporting to be issued by a public authority.

F. **Newspapers and periodicals.** Printed material purporting to be a newspaper or periodical.

G. **Trade inscriptions and the like.** An inscription, sign, tag, or label purporting to have been affixed in the course of business and indicating origin, ownership, or control.

H. **Acknowledged documents.** A document accompanied by a certificate of acknowledgment that is lawfully executed by a notary public or another officer who is authorized to take acknowledgments.

I. **Commercial paper and related documents.** Commercial paper, a signature on it, and related documents, to the extent allowed by general commercial law.

J. **Presumptions under a statute.** A signature, document, or anything else that a Gila River Indian Community, Arizona or federal statute declares to be presumptively or prima facie genuine or authentic.

K. **Certified domestic records of a regularly conducted activity.** The original or a copy of a domestic record that meets the requirements of Rule 803(F)(1)-(4), as shown by a certification of the custodian or another qualified person that complies with a Gila River Indian Community, Arizona or federal statute or a rule prescribed by the Gila River Indian Community Court. Before the trial or hearing, the proponent must give an adverse party reasonable written notice of the intent to offer the record--and must make the record and certification available for inspection--so that the party has a fair opportunity to challenge them.

L. **Certified foreign records of a regularly conducted activity.** In a civil case, the original or a copy of a foreign record that meets the requirements of Rule 902(K), modified as follows: the certification, rather than complying with a Gila River Indian Community, Arizona or federal statute or Gila River Indian Community Court rule, must be signed in a manner that, if falsely made, would subject the maker to a criminal penalty in the country where the certification is signed. The proponent must also meet the notice requirements of Rule 902(K).

Rule 903. Subscribing Witness's Testimony.

A subscribing witness's testimony is necessary to authenticate a writing only if required by the law of the jurisdiction that governs its validity.

ARTICLE X. CONTENTS OF WRITINGS, RECORDINGS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Rule 1001. Definitions That Apply to This Article.

In this article:

- A. A “writing” consists of letters, words, numbers, or their equivalent set down in any form.
- B. A “recording” consists of letters, words, numbers, or their equivalent recorded in any manner.
- C. A “photograph” means a photographic image or its equivalent stored in any form.
- D. An “original” of a writing or recording means the writing or recording itself or any counterpart intended to have the same effect by the person who executed or issued it. For electronically stored information, “original” means any printout — or other output readable by

sight — if it accurately reflects the information. An “original” of a photograph includes the negative or a print from it.

E. A “duplicate” means a counterpart produced by a mechanical, photographic, chemical, electronic, or other equivalent process or technique that accurately reproduces the original.

Rule 1002. Requirement of the Original.

An original writing, recording, or photograph is required in order to prove its content unless these rules or an applicable statute provides otherwise.

Rule 1003. Admissibility of Duplicates.

A duplicate is admissible to the same extent as the original unless a genuine question is raised about the original’s authenticity or the circumstances make it unfair to admit the duplicate.

Rule 1004. Admissibility of Other Evidence of Contents.

An original is not required and other evidence of the content of a writing, recording, or photograph is admissible if:

- A. all the originals are lost or destroyed, and not by the proponent acting in bad faith;
- B. an original cannot be obtained by any available judicial process;
- C. the party against whom the original would be offered had control of the original; was at that time put on notice, by pleadings or otherwise, that the original would be a subject of proof at the trial or hearing; and fails to produce it at the trial or hearing; or
- D. the writing, recording, or photograph is not closely related to a controlling issue.

Rule 1005. Copies of Public Records to Prove Content.

The proponent may use a copy to prove the content of an official record — or of a document that was recorded or filed in a public office as authorized by law — if these conditions are met: the record or document is otherwise admissible; and the copy is certified as correct in accordance with Rule 902(D) or is testified to be correct by a witness who has compared it with the original. If no such copy can be obtained by reasonable diligence, then the proponent may use other evidence to prove the content.

Rule 1006. Summaries to Prove Content.

The proponent may use a summary, chart, or calculation to prove the content of voluminous writings, recordings, or photographs that cannot be conveniently examined in court. The proponent must make the originals or duplicates available for examination or copying, or both, by other parties at a reasonable time or place. And the court may order the proponent to produce them in court.

Rule 1007. Testimony or Statement of a Party to Prove Content.

The proponent may prove the content of a writing, recording, or photograph by the testimony, deposition, or written statement of the party against whom the evidence is offered. The proponent need not account for the original.

Rule 1008. Functions of the Court and Jury.

Ordinarily, the court determines whether the proponent has fulfilled the factual conditions for admitting other evidence of the content of a writing, recording, or photograph under Rule 1004 or 1005. But in a jury trial, the jury determines — in accordance with Rule 104(B) — any issue about whether:

- A. an asserted writing, recording, or photograph ever existed;
- B. another one produced at the trial or hearing is the original; or
- C. other evidence of content accurately reflects the content.

ARTICLE XI. MISCELLANEOUS RULES

Rule 1101. Applicability of the Rules.

- A. **Courts.** These rules apply to all courts of the Gila River Indian Community.
- B. **Proceedings generally.** These rules apply generally to civil actions and proceedings, to contempt proceedings except those in which the court may act summarily, and to criminal cases and proceedings except as otherwise provided by statute or in the Gila River Indian Community Rules of Criminal Procedure.
- C. **Rule of privilege.** The rule with respect to privileges applies at all stages of all actions, cases, and proceedings.

Rule 1102. Amendments.

These rules may be amended by the Gila River Indian Community Court if such amendment(s) is duly approved by the Gila River Indian Community Council.

Rule 1103. Title.

These rules may be cited as the Gila River Indian Community Rules of Evidence.