

OSAGE NEWS: CASE STUDY IN JOURNALIST ETHICS - Q & A: FACT SHEET



What are the *Osage News* JOURNALISTIC ETHICS?

1. [Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics](#) - **ON BACK SIDE**
2. **Osage Nations Code of Ethics** (pp. 15-18 Article X of [Osage Nation Constitution](#)) including "The Osage News serves all Osage people equally, regardless of location."

What are the *Osage News* REPORTING POLICIES?

1. The Osage News seeks to cover news in all its complexity.
2. No one-source stories, including both documentation and people.
3. No anonymous sources, except with the approval of the editor who must know the identity of the source.
4. The Osage News is not a substitute for the due-process provided by the Osage Nation's policies and procedures.
5. No gifts accepted from, or given to, elected officials or employees of Osage Nation in an official capacity. Exceptions where culturally appropriate.

What are the *Osage News* EDITORIAL policies? (editorials - are opinion articles)

1. No endorsement of political candidates.
2. No editorials from the paper's reporters, editor.
3. No gifts accepted from, or given to, elected officials or employees of Osage Nation in an official capacity. Exceptions where culturally appropriate.

Who helps enforce these editorial policies? A three-person Editorial Board

FREEDOM OF PRESS & INDEPENDENT PRESS:

Can the Chief, or a Congressperson, or a Judge tell an Osage New reporter what to publish? NO.

1. Like the U.S. Constitution, the **Constitution of the Osage Nation (adopted in 2006)** declares that the Osage government shall not make any law "abridging the freedom of speech or the press."
2. In addition, to assure objectivity in reporting on government affairs, the Osage Nation passed the **2008 Independent Press Act** guaranteeing the independence of the Osage News from editorial influence from the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the Osage Nation government.