

**ONEIDA JUDICIARY**  
**Tsi nu téshakotiya?tolétha?**

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**TRIAL COURT**

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**Oneida Nation / Oneida Police Department,  
Petitioners**

**v.**

**Case No: 23-CT-059**  
**Date: August 11, 2023**

**Margaret R. Cornelius,  
Defendant**

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**ORDER**

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This case has come before the Oneida Trial Court, Honorable John E. Powless, III presiding.

*Appearing In-person:* Petitioners' Attorney, Kelly McAndrews.

*Non-Appearance:* Defendant, Margaret R. Cornelius.

**Background**

Defendant was issued a citation for Animal Running at Large, 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense, for violating Oneida Code of Laws section 304.6-4 on May 18, 2023. An initial pre-trial hearing was held July 20, 2023. The Defendant did not appear. At the hearing, the Court emphasized the importance of addressing this matter with the Defendant, due to a previous Running at Large violation. As a result, the Court granted a continuance of the pre-trial hearing. A pre-trial hearing was held August 10, 2023. The Defendant did not appear.

**Principles of Law**

Title 3. Judiciary – Chapter 304 Domestic Animals:

304.6-4. *Running at Large.* An owner shall not allow a dog or cat to run at large by being any place except upon the premises of the owner, unless the dog or cat is crated, penned, or on a leash under the control of a person physically able to control the animal.

- (a) A stray dog or cat running at large may be referred to the Oneida Police Department or Oneida Conservation Department.
- (b) When an Oneida Police Officer or Oneida Conservation Warden finds a dog or cat running at large, the officer and/or warden shall, if possible, pick up and impound such animal.
- (c) Whenever any impounded animal bears an identification mark, such as a collar with identification tags or license tag, the owner shall be notified as soon as reasonably

possible.

Title 8. Judiciary – Chapter 803 Oneida Rules of Civil Procedure:

**803.29. Default; Default Judgment**

803.29-2. Defendant. When a party against whom a judgment for relief is sought has failed to appear, plead or otherwise defend as required in this Law or elsewhere, a default judgment may be granted by the Court upon the receipt of whatever evidence is deemed necessary to establish the claim.

Title 8. Judiciary – Chapter 807 Citations:

**807.6 Hearing Procedure**

807.6-1. *Citation Pre-Hearing.*

(f) If a defendant does not appear at the pre-hearing or submit written notice that he or she is contesting the citation when there is a non-mandatory appearance, and the defendant has not entered into a stipulation or paid the fine and/or penalty as listed on the citation, the Court may proceed to enter a default judgment.

(1) A default judgment may include any fine amount due, restitution, suspension of any rights, privileges, or licensures, and/or any other penalty authorized by law.

**Analysis**

In accordance with 3 O.C. 304.6-4, Defendant was cited for violating Animal Running at Large, 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense for an incident that occurred on May 18, 2023. At a pre-trial hearing on July 20, 2023, the Court granted a continuance for this matter, due to Defendant's non-appearance. A pre-trial hearing was held August 10, 2023, at which time, Defendant still did not appear. At the hearing, Petitioners requested to amend Animal Running at Large, 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense to identify the proper offense.

**Default Judgment:**

Pursuant to 8 O.C. 803.29-2 and 807.6-1(f), when a party against whom a judgment for relief has failed to appear, enter into a stipulation or paid the citation fine and court costs, a default judgment may be granted by the court upon the receipt of whatever evidence is deemed necessary to establish the claim. In this case, Defendant failed to appear after being properly noticed of the action. Petitioners put on evidence to establish their claim and the Court finds that the citation was property issued. Therefore, the Court found Defendant in default and entered an order which included sanctions.

**Finding of Facts**

The Court finds as follows:

1. The Court has subject matter and personal jurisdiction over this matter.
2. All those entitled to notice received notice.
3. The Oneida Police Department cited Defendant Animal Running at Large, 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense, for violating 3 O.C. 304.6-4 on May 18, 2023.
4. A pre-trial hearing was held August 10, 2023.
  - a. The Defendant did not appear.
  - b. The Court found Defendant in default for failure to appear.
5. At the hearing, Petitioners requested to amend Animal Running at Large, 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense to the same violation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense, the request is approved by the Court.

**Order**

A default judgment is entered in favor of the Petitioners and against the Defendant in the amount as follows:

**Animal Running at Large – 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – 304.6-4.**

Fine:	\$150.00
Court Costs:	<u>\$25.00</u>
<b>Total Amount owed by Defendant:</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>

The total amount due is payable to the Oneida Judiciary **within sixty (60) calendar days** from the date this Order is signed. Failure to pay is subject to the Nation’s laws and remedies.

**The parties have the right to appeal in accordance with the Nation’s laws.**

IT IS SO ORDERED.

By the authority vested in the Oneida Judiciary pursuant to Resolution 01-07-13-B of the General Tribal Council this Order was signed on August 11, 2023.

  
John E. Powless III, Trial Court Judge