FORT PECK TRIBAL COURT OF APPEALS FORT PECK INDIAN RESERVATION ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX TRIBES POPLAR, MONTANA

IN THE MATTER OF: ERIN RICKER, a minor Indian child

Appeal No.225

OPINION

This matter coming before this Court on an Appeal filed December 1, 1995 on behalf of Lanette Trottier (Petitioner herein) by and through her counsel, Richard L. Erie, Esq. and Mary Cleland, Lay Advocate, both of Wolf Point, MT., and this Court ordering Oral Argument in the matter at 9:00 a.m. December 5, 1995, and Petitioner appearing through her counsels of record, Respondent George Ricker, Jr. appearing through his counsel, Rene A. Martell, Esq. of Wolf Point, MT., and the Guardian Ad-Litem, Bryce M. Wildcat, Esq. of Poplar, MT., appearing on behalf of the minor Indian Child and this Court having heard each of the parties in the matter, and good cause appearing, it is the Order of this Court:

1. That the Order denying Petitioner's request to call witnesses at the Emergency Hearing presently scheduled for December 6, 1995, is reversed with instructions to the Tribal Court to set a date within seven days of this Order for an exchange of Witness Lists by all parties who have not previously done so.

2. That the Emergency Hearing Date of December 6, 1995 is set aside and the matter is remanded to the Tribal Court for resetting on the Court's calendar not sooner than December 19, 1995.

3. That the matter is further remanded to the Tribal Court to impose sanctions upon Petitioner's attorney, Richard L. Erie, Esq., if, in the opinion of the Tribal Court, such sanctions are appropriate.

4. An Opinion by this Court follows under separate cover.

Entered this _____ day of December, 1995.

FOR THE FORT PECK COURT OF APPEALS:

Gary M. Beaudry, Chief Justice

Gary P. Sullivan, Associate Justice