



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS

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Trafficking Sacred or Ceremonial Objects - General Information

What happens if you are on the computer or in a store somewhere and see an item that you recognize that could be an item that is considered sacred, ceremonial or an artifact that could be illegally obtained?

Try to gather as much information that you can and report it to authorities. Do not confront the owner whether you are in a shop, a flea market or trade show. Document the address or website, any auction number and description of what you may think to be illegal. Report your findings or concerns to your local law enforcement agency or land management agency. You will (more than likely) need to explain why you believe an item may be illegal to either possess or sell, so don't be surprised.

The number of law enforcement officers and archaeologists available to investigate all types of crime are limited, and especially so with cultural resource crimes. Any information that is current, complete and accurate in these types of scenarios is very useful. Please help by being another set of eyes and ears in the prevention of cultural resource crimes.

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NATHPO is a not-for-profit membership association of tribal governments that are committed to preserving, rejuvenating, and improving the status of tribal cultures and cultural practices by supporting Native languages, arts, dances, music, oral traditions, cultural properties, tribal museums, tribal cultural centers, and tribal libraries.