



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

# Culture, Family and Sexual Abuse

**FNHA Mental Health & Wellness Summit**  
**Patricia Vickers, Ph.D.**  
**February 2018**



## **ANCESTRAL LAW**

The Ayaawx (Ts'msyen ancestral law) is rooted in spiritual principles connected to our ancestors and provides guidelines for the future in everyday relationships. The Ayaawx is as old as human relationships with the environment. Respect is the heart of ancestral law.



## ADAAWX

Adaawx, also known as ‘myth’ is a *true telling* of sacred history, a connection of a House with its territory, an account of the sacred relationship of a people with the land.

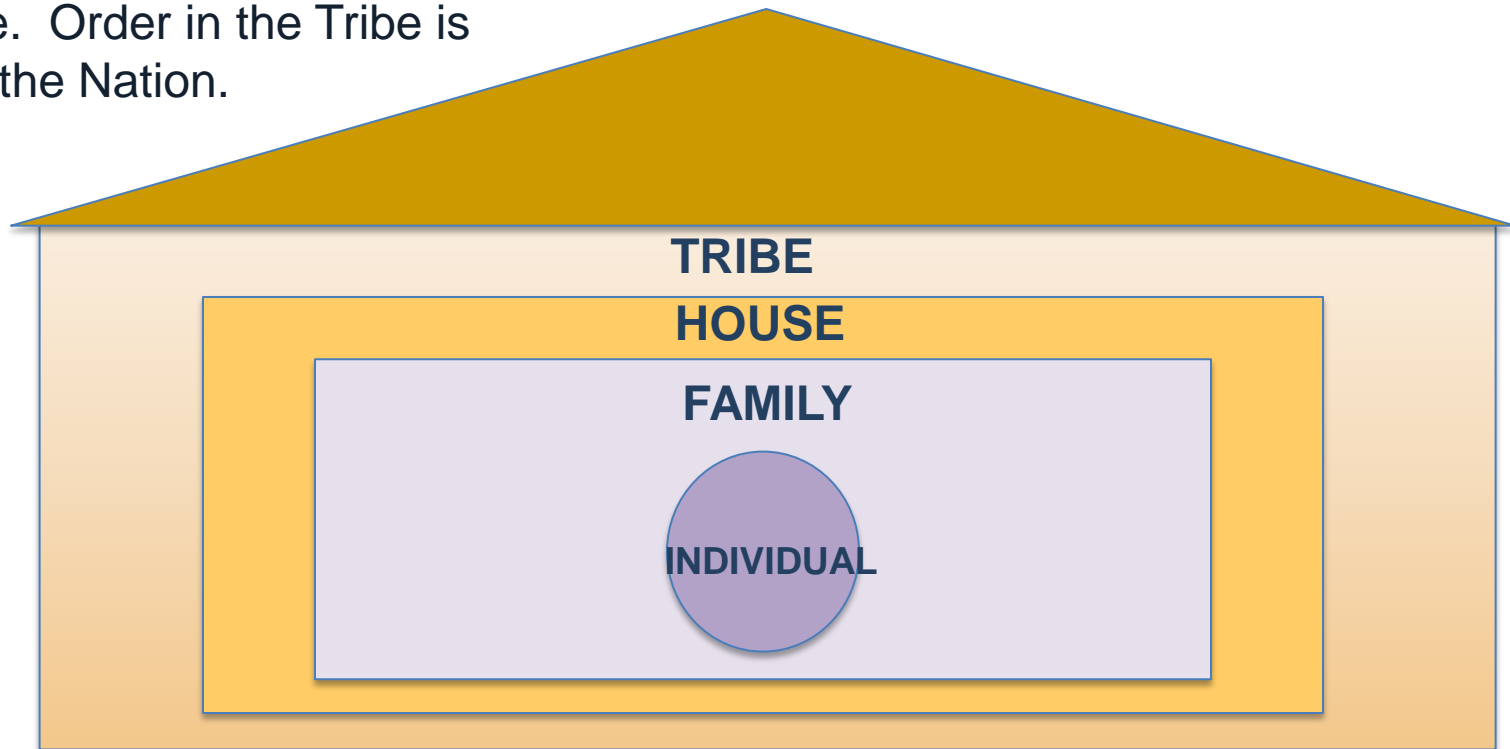
They give account of encounters with Supernatural beings and how people were changed by the encounters. They are a living account of who we are, where we came from and our relationship with the Supernatural world.

We know of the principles and laws of sexual relations within a family, House and Tribe from Adaawx that have been passed down from generation to generation.





Order in the individual is order  
in the Family. Order in the  
Family is order in the House.  
Order in the House is order in  
the Tribe. Order in the Tribe is  
order in the Nation.





Intergenerational sexual abuse and the shame that is coupled with it has been normalized.

Threat induced secrecy is evidence that incest and sexual abuse are not normal, are not acceptable and oppose ancestral teachings of respect.



# sagayt k'üülm goot néca?mat

Coming out of conditioning to dehumanization requires unity that is rooted and grounded in ancestral principles that have respect as the foundation, as the fire, as the source for being open to the necessary shift from suffering to peace and freedom.