



**JOE SHIRLEY, JR.**  
*President*

**FRANK J. DAYISH, JR.**  
*Vice-President*

## **THE NAVAJO NATION**

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### **Navajo President Joe Shirley, Jr., First Lady Vikki Shirley team with Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard to fight meth**

**PHOENIX, Ariz.** – Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard has enthusiastically agreed to help the Navajo Nation fight a growing problem with methamphetamine use.

Navajo Nation First Lady Vikki Shirley traveled here Wednesday, Nov. 2, to seek Mr. Goddard's assistance. Reducing the incidence of drunk driving, domestic violence and its causes – which now includes substance abuse of meth – is one of the First Lady's priorities. Accompanying her was Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr.

"I think it's important that we move forward together," Mr. Goddard told the First Lady and President. "If you don't have a home cooking problem (with methamphetamine), you will."

Mr. Goddard invited Mrs. Shirley to become part of MOM – Mothers Opposed to Meth – an organization being formed to bring awareness to the problem. She said she would.



**Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard meets with Navajo President Joe Shirley, Jr., and First Lady Vikki Shirley to discuss strategies to work together to combat methamphetamine use on the Navajo Nation.**

The Attorney General said the worst problem in the state appears to be located in Mojave County along the Colorado River. He said it's very difficult for law enforcement agencies to locate hidden meth labs because they are so portable and use such easy-to-get household ingredients.

The First Lady asked to meet Mr. Goddard because she heard of his efforts to fight meth use state-wide. Earlier this year, he supported legislation to make the ingredients to manufacture it more difficult to get. The legislation, which failed, would have required stores that sell cold remedies containing the ingredient pseudoephedrine to put the products, like Sudafed, behind the counter.

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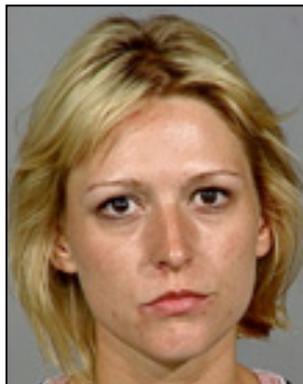
## The Gallery of Meth Use



*Before meth*



*After meth*



*Before meth*



*After meth*

Pseudoephedrine is a necessary ingredient to make meth. The legislation would have also required consumers to present identification and have the purchases marked in a log that would be available to police scrutiny. The law's purpose, Mr. Goddard said, is to cut down on the manufacture of the super-addictive drug in secret labs in homes, motel rooms, and even in vehicles.

Mr. Goddard said he had the support of every law enforcement agency he spoke to about it, and would seek to have the legislation re-introduced.

"After people study this problem, they don't have much question," he said.

"Native communities are being hit the hardest because of the remoteness of the areas and shortage of law enforcement services in many places," Mrs. Shirley told him. "The Navajo Nation needs to be pro-active in the effort to combat meth, Mr. Goddard, and we would like to work with you."

President Shirley told Mr. Goddard that he was fearful that meth cooks would come to Navajoland, rent an isolated hogan from a needy Navajo grandmother or grandfather for several hundred dollars and endanger their lives by leaving behind a highly-contaminated hogan and area when they leave.

The President said he had seen a presentation on methamphetamine and didn't like what he saw.

"It wasn't a pretty picture," he told the Attorney General. "I really want to declare an outright war on this methamphetamine problem. We're going to need resources."

Children can be seriously affected not only by use of meth but by the poisonous fumes and residue left through its manufacture, Mr. Goddard said.

"The affect on kids is devastating," he said. "What (the cooks) leave behind is highly-toxic. It contaminates the walls, the furniture, everything. Often the only thing to do is tear the house down."

When left on the floors, he said, "it literally burns the bottom of their feet."

Mr. Goddard said a related problem is that to acquire money to continue their meth habit or buy ingredients to make it, "meth cooks are also robbing every house in the vicinity."

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In February of this year, the Navajo Nation Council passed legislation to make the possession or sale of methamphetamine punishable by up to one year in tribal jail and a \$5,000 fine. The FBI estimates up to 40 percent of the violent crime cases it handles on the Navajo Nation are methamphetamine related.

"This is probably one of the most important laws enacted by the tribe in years," said Greg Adair, a Navajo police criminal investigator from Tuba City. "This is now a tool for every officer to fight this problem on the tribal level."

"The communities predominately affected by the trafficking of methamphetamine are in the rural areas of the Navajo Nation," said Alvernon Tsosie in a report for the Window Rock Criminal Investigation Unit. "These rural communities have less or no law enforcement presence to reduce drug trafficking activities."

## The Gallery of Meth Use



*Before meth*



*After meth*