

DINÉ HATAAĹII ASSOCIATION

EMERGENCY DECLARATION OF MOURNING AND CEREMONIAL CESSATION

Issued in Respect for the Families and the Sacred Protocols

The Diné HataaĹii Association, in accordance with the traditional responsibilities entrusted to HataaĹii and in recognition of the sacred order governing our ceremonies, hereby issues this Emergency Declaration of Mourning and Ceremonial Cessation.

We acknowledge with profound sorrow the tragic drowning in New Mexico that resulted in the loss of three generations of one family. This loss reaches beyond the immediate family and touches relatives, communities, and all those who carry the responsibility of prayer and ceremony.

In accordance with our traditional understanding of mourning, respect, and the proper time for spiritual observance, the Diné HataaĹii Association hereby orders the temporary cessation of all ceremonies, ceremonial gatherings, and related ceremonial activities until after the full moon.

During this period, all HataaĹii, ceremonial practitioners, chapters, members, and persons under the authority or guidance of the Diné HataaĹii Association are directed to honor this cessation without exception, unless otherwise specifically authorized by the Association.

This period shall be observed as a time of:

- Mourning and respect for those who have passed;
- Prayer and remembrance for the families and relatives;
- Spiritual reflection and restoration of balance;
- Respect for the traditional order governing times of mourning and ceremony; and
- Unity among our people during this time of profound loss.

No ceremonial activity shall be scheduled, initiated, or conducted under the name or authority of the Diné HataaĹii Association during this period of cessation.

The Hataaʼlii and members of the Association are called upon to uphold this declaration with discipline, respect, compassion, and adherence to our traditional responsibilities. This is a time to allow the families to grieve and to allow prayers to be offered in their proper time and manner.

Following the full moon, the Diné Hataaʼlii Association will provide direction concerning the resumption of ceremonies and ceremonial activities.

May the Holy People guide the families who are grieving. May those who have departed be remembered with dignity and respect. May strength, comfort, protection, and healing be restored to their relatives and to all who have been affected by this tragedy.

This declaration is effective immediately upon issuance.

Issued by authority of the Diné Hataaʼlii Association, Inc.

Date: September 16, 2026

Dr. Avery Denny, President: Dr. Avery Denny Date: 9/16/26
Diné Hataaʼlii Association, Inc.

Anson Etsitty, Vice President

Diné Hataaʼlii Association

cc. Daniel E. Johnson