

4A.7A.7A 50.90 50.90A

The Traditional Cultural Advisors (TCA) Committee serves as the Osage Nation’s committee of elders that works towards the preservation, maintenance, and revitalization of Osage culture and traditions. As part of this mission, the TCA makes important decisions regarding culturally sensitive materials.

*“The Osage Spider symbol should receive great respect and care. This symbol is one that comes from long ago and has been passed down to our people through both oral tradition and in the form of a sacred tattoo. The spider is the life symbol of the ᏍᏏᏉᏯ ᏚᏳᏰᏃᏍᏉᏯ or Isolated Earth people. This symbol is to be understood as a representative of ᏍᏏᏉᏯ or Snare of Life. The spider itself explained to the people how it is the snare and that all things necessary for life come to it. In fact, life itself is in the snare and only through escaping the snare, or in other words death, can one return to the spirit world. This symbol could be tattooed on the hands of the wives and daughters of those ᏰᏃᏍᏏᏉᏯᏉᏯ, or Clan Priests, who had earned all thirteen ᏚᏳᏃᏍᏉᏯ, or War Honors, and had first been tattooed themselves. This symbol could not be taken at will, freely, or carelessly but had to be earned. The tattoos forever marked those individuals and gave them new responsibilities within the traditional tribal beliefs.*

*-Osage Nation TCA Committee, May 2017*