NAGPRA Flowchart

Discovery of Human Remains

Stop all work that will disturb remains. Make a reasonable effort to protect the site of discovery.

Immediately contact local legal authorities such as sheriff, police, or medical examiner. Is it a crime scene?

NO. Did the discovery occur on public lands?

NO. Are you a museum as defined by NAGPRA? See FAQs.

NO. Refer to Texas Health and Safety Code.

YES. Legal authorities will take possession of the remains.*

YES. Did the discovery occur on federal or tribal lands?

YES. You ARE subject to NAGPRA and may have additional responsibilities under Texas Health and Safety Code.

Contact federal Indian tribes within three days. Publish notice in Federal Register.

If a tribe claims the remains, initiate the consultation process.

If remains are not claimed by Indian tribe or are culturally unidentifiable, contact National NAGPRA Program.

Develop a plan of action for the disposition of the remains.

*If authorities take possession of human remains and later it is determined that they are not part of a crime scene, then NAGPRA may still apply.