



*Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians*  
*Gaming Regulatory Authority*  
Office of Gaming Regulation and Compliance

## Guide: How to Prepare for Your Hearing

**Why This Guide Matters** Preparing for your hearing helps the process go smoothly and gives you the best chance for a positive outcome. This guide explains what to do before your hearing and what the Board looks for when reviewing your case, so you can come in ready and confident.

### What to Do Before Your Hearing

- ✓ **Read your file:** Make sure you understand why you are scheduled for a hearing and what information is in your file.
- ✓ **Collect all supporting documents:** You should bring documents that prove you are doing better, staying sober, and/or making positive changes in your life.

Here are examples of what you can bring:

- ✓ **Proof of Sobriety or Treatment:** Certificates showing you completed a treatment program. Letters or reports from: treatment counselors, probation officers, drug court coordinators
- ✓ **UA (urinalysis) or drug test results**
- ✓ **Attendance logs from:** AA/NA meetings, outpatient programs, group therapy sessions
- ✓ **Documents Showing Positive Life Changes:** Verification of a new job or steady employment (pay stubs, a letter from your employer, etc), proof of training or classes completed (GED, college classes, job skills training), certificates for life-skills, relapse-prevention, or wellness programs.
- ✓ **Letters of Support: Letters should be from people who can speak honestly about your progress, such as:** counselors, employers or supervisors, Elders or community members, probation officers
  - These letters should explain: how you have changed, what steps you are taking to stay sober/law abiding, why you can be trusted again, how you stay responsible in daily life.
- ✓ **Documents Showing You Are Following the Rules:** proof you completed community service, court documents showing closed cases or compliance with conditions, proof you stayed away from casino property while excluded.
- ✓ **Anything else that shows responsibility:** certificates or awards from school, work, or community activities, counseling or mental-health support attendance logs.

### Ways to Show the Board You're Ready for a Positive Change

- ✓ **Be ready to explain your request:** Have a clear reason for why you are asking the Board to change or reverse a decision.
- ✓ **Show up for your hearing** Being present allows you to:
  - Tell your side of the story
  - Answer questions
  - Speak directly to the Board
- ✓ **Call to reschedule if you cannot attend** Being proactive shows you are committed to the process and taking your situation seriously.
- ✓ **Speak honestly and take responsibility:** The Board looks for personal growth, honesty, and accountability.



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### **What Helps Your Hearing Move Forward Without Delays**

1. **Complete paperwork:** You must fill out the entire hearing request form and sign it.
2. **Bring strong supporting documents:** If you completed treatment or a program, bring proof such as certificates or letters from counselors. Letters of support from employers, community members, or family can also strengthen your case.
3. **Be honest about your past and show growth:** The Board looks for signs that you understand past actions and are working to improve. Taking responsibility shows maturity and helps the Board see your progress.
4. **Attend your hearing:** Showing up is one of the best ways to support your case. Being present shows the Board that you care about the outcome and want to share your story.
5. **Follow the terms of your exclusion:** If you are currently excluded and asking for it to be lifted, respecting the rules during this time shows positive progress and supports your request to return.
6. **Stay law-abiding and avoid new incidents:** A clean record and no recent incidents on casino property help your review move forward. Positive behavior shows the Board that you are committed to change.
7. **Take care of restitution before your hearing:** If you owe restitution, paying it ahead of time helps keep your hearing on track. Showing that you have taken care of this can support a positive outcome.

### **We're Here to Help**

If you need help preparing for your hearing or understanding the process:

 **Visit:** <https://millelacsband.com/government/indian-gaming-regulation>

 **Call:** 320-532-8253 (Mille Lacs) | 320-384-4742 (Hinckley)

 **Email:** [cambrose@mlbgra.com](mailto:cambrose@mlbgra.com)

**Your success is our goal.**

**Preparing now will help you walk into your hearing with confidence.**