



Communities for Restorative Justice

Ground Rules for the Restorative Circle Process

- **Listen well** Give all your attention to what others are saying. Try to understand the speaker's perspective. Consider each of the harms that are voiced and what it might take to repair those harms.
- **Share air time** The person holding the stone has the floor without interruption. Speak respectfully and concisely when it is your turn.
- **Confidentiality** By agreeing to participate in this process, we all agree to keep confidential everything said in the circle. You may describe the *process* and your own participation to people outside the circle, **but do not repeat what occurs or what other people say in the circle. It is important to protect the privacy of each person in the circle but especially the victim, the offender, and the family.**
- **Respect others** Use respectful body language. Circle participants will respect each other's feelings creating a safe place to express emotions.
- **Speak for yourself** There may be circumstances when a victim sends a representative to a circle. Otherwise, all participants should state only their own feelings and observations. Although this may be difficult at times for family members, it will help to assure that the offender assumes responsibility for their actions. This will also allow the victim to have an opportunity to get their questions answered by the youth offender.
- **All are equal** Each member of the circle is valued. We are all here to learn and heal. Each participant will have a chance to help create the restorative agreement. The goal is to reach a consensus which is fair and appropriate.
- **Honesty** The circle process succeeds when all are completely truthful. We will be addressing solely the incident which caused the referral for this case.