



Restorative Circle Ground Rules

- **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 talking piece is allowed to speak 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 members/supporters.
- **Respect others**
Use respectful body language. Circle participants will respect each other's feelings; creating a safe place to express thoughts and 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 thoughts, feelings and observations. Although this may be difficult at times for family members, it will help to assure that the offender assumes responsibility for his/her actions. This will also allow the victim to have an opportunity to have questions answered by the 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 circle 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.

Note: Please do not bring food, gum, or drink (other than water) to the circle process. If you have questions about this, please speak to your Case Coordinator ahead of time.