



### **Policy on Parent/Supporter Involvement and Notification**

The following outlines the practices C4RJ will follow regarding notification and involvement of parents in the restorative justice process, notwithstanding any policies or requests of participating police departments.

In cases involving **youth 17 and under**, C4RJ will:

- Address the parents on referral forms and mailed envelopes; both parents will be named if they are available
- **Require** a parent, guardian, or family designate (and preferably both parents) to attend the intake interview and participate in both the Opening and Closing circles.

In instances in which parents are known to be divorced, C4RJ will attempt to contact the parent who resides in the same home as the youth. If divorced parents both wish to be present with their child but refuse to be present with the each other, the case coordinator will seek a compromise.

For example, in a case in which parents would not be in the same room, we had a youth choose the parent he wanted with him in the Opening and Closing circles. His plan of repair included a commitment to update the other parent regularly. The case coordinator was also in touch with the nonparticipating parent.

In other cases, we have had parents request that we not notify noncustodial parents because they or their children were afraid of the other parents or because they believed the other parents would be disruptive. In these instances, we have consulted with police officers about the circumstances and made a decision jointly.

In cases involving individuals **age 18-20**, C4RJ will:

- Address the parents on referral forms and mailed envelopes
- **Invite and strongly encourage** parental involvement at intake and at the Opening and Closing circles.

At **age 21 and beyond**, individuals will be encouraged to bring supporters with them to intake and circle but will not be required to do so. C4RJ will **not** address a referral letter to a parent of an individual 21 or older unless specifically requested to do so by a participating police department.