Communities for Restorative Justice

The Three-Strike Rule

What constitutes a strike?

When you, the offender:
- fail to call, or call on time
- fail to show or are late for a meeting, or fail to cancel with adequate notice (24 hours unless otherwise specified)
- miss a deadline
- commit another criminal offense

Strike 1

The facilitator is likely to:
- ask you for an explanation
- review your obligations under the agreement
- discuss your reasoning

The facilitator will inform you that you have incurred one strike. We view this as an opportunity to review your decision-making and priorities. After school, work, and family obligations, we expect your restorative agreement to be your top priority. The facilitator may offer you some suggestions about ways you might make sure you meet your obligations.

Strike 2

The facilitator will inform you that you have incurred a second strike. Then the facilitator will inform the case coordinator, who will inform the participating officer (and, for youths, your parents). The officer may have a conversation with you as well.

Strike 3

The facilitator will inform you and the case coordinator, who will reconvene the circle. The circle will hear what has transpired and decide whether to continue the case or refer it back to the police.

Please note: The three-strike rule does not mean that your facilitator must give you three strikes before the case is returned to the circle. The case can be returned to the circle at any point if, in the judgment of your facilitator and case coordinator:
- you are not making sufficient effort in fulfilling the terms of the agreement
- you have been disrespectful
- you have re-offended