

REFERRAL SOURCE FLYER

What is Restorative Justice?

It is a philosophy, point of view, and alternative approach that uses structured processes such as Circles, or Conferencing for organizing effective group communication, building relationships to hold people accountable in problem solving the situation that brought them here. A Restorative approach would ask questions such as what happened, who was effected, what are their needs, and whose obligations are these to make things right?

What is Sentencing Circle?

Usually referred through attorney's office or involved parties within the case. These Circles consists of juveniles, their parents or other support people, several community volunteers, and the Restorative Justice Coordinator. Circles meet every other week. Victims may also participate if they wish or if applicable to the particular case. As a group, the Circle works with the individual and their family to determine what they can do to repair the harm they have caused by the offenses or circumstances that brought them to Circle.

What is a Family and Community Circle?

Through the participation of Circle; community members, youth, and their families and support persons play an equal role in encouraging and empowering the youth and their family to identify and enhance their strengths, while finding solutions to support them in meeting the goals of their case plan. Circles meet every other week. As a group, the Circle balances support with accountability for youth/families to remain safe and healthy in their own homes and community.

How do I describe this to clients?

It's a support circle. There is a mentor type approach with the balance of support and accountability offered in each group. It is a *voluntary* process that utilizes a supportive network of community volunteers for youth and families to use as a sound board as they work their way through whatever the concern might be. It's my hope that you could utilize this program to build community supports, work on communication as a family, and work with community members outside of the professionals involved to work through and get support for the concerns that opened our case.

Steps for referral

1. Contact RJ Coordinator to consult on referral. Fill out the form and send to the RJ Coordinator. (*Staff Page – Policies/Forms – Restorative Justice – Referral Form*)
2. Have ROI signed and give them a Circle brochure and inform them the RJ coordinator will be contacting them. (*Brochure is under the same location*)
3. RJ Coordinator will meet with referral. If willing to participate, the Circle will meet to hold an Application Circle to accept them into the program.
4. The RJ Coordinator will remain in contact with the referral source throughout the case, and will be notified upon completion or discharge from the program.