

# CIRCLE PARTICIPANTS

The following individuals should be invited to participate in the circle:

- ✓ The victim and their supporters
- ✓ The offender and their supporters
- ✓ Key persons involved in helping the offender and victim such as youth workers, social workers, teachers and counselors
- ✓ Elders & Leadership

“EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS”  
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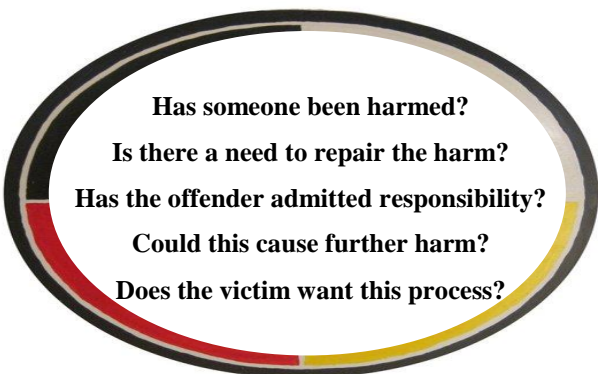


## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

“MAA-MII-NAH-CHI-KE-WIN”



# WHAT TO CONSIDER



**Participation by all parties  
(victim, offender, etc.)  
must be voluntary.**

# WHO CAN REFER

*Referrals can come from **anywhere***

- ✓ Court & Crown Attorneys
- ✓ Police Officers
- ✓ Probation Officers
- ✓ Chief and Council
- ✓ Principals & Teachers
- ✓ Community Resource Workers
- ✓ Parents & Individuals
- ✓ Neighbourhood Watch

# WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Restorative justice is defined as an alternative form of justice that focuses on addressing the harm caused by crime while holding the offender responsible for their actions. Once the referral comes in, a healing circle is facilitated. This circle provides an opportunity for the parties directly affected by the crime – victims, offenders and community members – to identify and address their needs.

The principles of restorative justice are based on respect, compassion and inclusivity. Restorative justice encourages meaningful engagement and accountability. It provides an opportunity for healing, reparation and reintegration.

The process starts with a traditional circle, led by a restorative justice facilitator. The goal of the circle is to reach an agreement. Within this agreement, the offender agrees to take a course of action to repair harms caused to the victim. It is up to the offender to put in the effort and dedication needed to uphold the agreement. If the offender is successful in meeting the conditions set by the circle, then the matter is closed. If the agreement is not completed, the matter is referred back to the court to proceed regularly.

The following are some of the conditions of the Agreements made in a circle:

- Volunteering in the community
- Assisting Elders
- Apologies
- Restitution
- Written or verbal apology
- Attending presentations
- Attendance at school
- Testimonies, sharing of stories to provide a teaching
- Attending a treatment program/self-help program

Referrals for restorative justice come from the crown attorney after an individual has been screened and approved for diversion in criminal matters. It is also used in neighborhood disturbances, workplace disputes and harassment. In schools, restorative justice is assisting with attendance, bullying, truancy and harassment.

Examples of charges referred:

- Theft
- Assault
- Break and Enter
- Breaches
- Bullying
- Mischief
- Repetitive Warnings
- Trespass to Property
- Public Intoxication
- Impaired Driving
- Fail to Comply
- Disturbances
- Disputes
- Possession & Trafficking

This program gives all involved an opportunity to have a voice, to heal, and to grow within themselves and their communities. We want people to access further resources from this process as well as develop self-determination for positive decision making. Through motivation and understanding, Restorative Justice works towards changing the mindset of offenders to live more positively and recognize their strengths as individuals. Lastly, we also aim to replace ineffective, non-traditional and culturally unsuitable justice systems with more culturally appropriate community based healing methods.