



## Franklin County Juvenile Court RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CIRCLES FACT SHEET

Restorative Justice Circles are established in the areas of:  
**SOUTH SIDE, FRANKLINTON, WEINLAND PARK, NEAR EAST SIDE,  
MILO GROGAN, NORTH LINDEN, & WESTERVILLE.**

Expansion Sites in the areas of:  
**FAR NORTH SIDE, FAR EAST SIDE, FAR WEST SIDE/HILLTOP, HILLIARD, & GROVE CITY**  
are projected to open by the end of 2015.

### **COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED IN ALL AREAS**

#### MISSION STATEMENT

To prevent further Juvenile delinquent behavior by implementing the principles and practices of restorative justice through community recommended interventions that promote youth accountability and responsibility.

#### OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the **Community Restorative Circle (CRC)** are:

- To provide an alternative response from the juvenile justice system for first-time, misdemeanor offenders
- To hold juveniles accountable for their behavior
- To encourage juveniles to repair the harm done to their victim, their community and themselves
- To discourage further delinquent behavior
- To constructively involve the community in the juvenile justice system

#### POPULATION SERVED

The CRC serves youth who have been referred by a Juvenile Court Magistrate or by the Juvenile Court Intake/Diversion Department for first time, non-violent, misdemeanor offenders who reside within the targeted community. Such offenses might include: shoplifting, trespassing, possession of marijuana or alcohol, receiving stolen property, attempted theft or theft, simple assault, disorderly conduct or property damage.

#### COMMUNITY RESTORATIVE CIRCLE PROCESS

A CRC of four to six community volunteers meets with the youth (offender) and his or her parent/guardian (*and the victim if applicable*) to decide matters involving the delinquent behaviors that are referred by the Juvenile Court. At this meeting, CRC members ask questions and derive information from the youth so as to formulate a plan of action. This plan can be in the form of community service, letters of apology, topic specific essays or any other activities that will aid in the youth becoming a responsible young person. The decisions of the CRC, when agreed upon by all parties involved, become a signed agreement. Juvenile Court staff is responsible for monitoring compliance with the agreement.

If the expectations of the agreement are met, the CRC will recommend that the case be closed and the court record sealed. If the parties fail to enter into agreement, or if the youth fails to comply with the agreement, the case may be returned to the Juvenile Court for formal charges. All CRC activities are confidential.

## EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

Youth and their parents/guardians are expected to attend all CRC meetings and to cooperate with the agreement. The victim's participation (if applicable) is encouraged, but is strictly voluntary.

## BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY RESTORATIVE CIRCLES

### *To the Victim.....*

- Provides an opportunity for the victim (*if applicable*) to tell the offender how they were harmed by the offense.
- Allows the victim (*if applicable*) to have input into how the offender is to be held accountable, and how he/she is to repair the harm done by the offending behavior.
- Allows the victim (*if applicable*) to get answers.

### *To the Community.....*

- Permits the community to gain an appreciation for the problems of juvenile crime and delinquency.
- Allows members of the community to partner with the Juvenile Court to address juvenile crime issues in their own neighborhoods.
- Draws upon the support and resources of the community to provide a larger range of services for juvenile offenders.
- Emphasizes early intervention, which will help prevent repeat offenders.

### *To the Family.....*

- Provides the family with resources and recommendations.
- Allows the family to receive positive interaction with caring and concerned community members.
- Empowers parents by supporting their efforts.

### *To the Youth offender.....*

- Provides appropriate intervention for minor offenses.
- Helps the youth understand and make reparation for the harm done to their victim and their community.
- Affords the youth with the opportunity to become more constructively involved in their community.
- Helps the youth understand that the community cares about them, but will not tolerate their delinquent behavior.
- Helps the youth understand accountability, responsibility, consequences and making appropriate choices.

### *To Law Enforcement/Juvenile Court.....*

- Reduces the rate of repeat offenses by effectively handling first-time offenders.
- Allows the youth (offender) to be held accountable without costly and time-consuming formal court proceedings.
- Encourages the community to take a more active role in preventing juvenile delinquency.

## REFERRAL PROCESS

Currently juveniles are referred by a Juvenile Court Magistrate and by the Juvenile Court Intake/Diversion Department.

## PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please contact **Rachelle Randolph**, Juvenile Restorative Justice Diversion Coordinator, at **RJ\_Circles@fccourts.org** or **(614) 525-3130**.

**RESTORING • RESOLVING • REPAIRING • RESPECTING • REBUILDING • RECONCILING • REINTEGRATING**