

The 4 Stages of Peace Circles

Excerpted from: Establishing Shared Responsibility for Child Welfare Through Peacemaking Circles by Kay Pranis and Barry Stuart in Family Group Conferences, edited by Burford and Hudson

Acceptance - The community and the immediately affected parties determine if the circle process is right for the situation.

Preparation - Separate circles for various interests (family, social workers) are held to explore issues & concerns and prepare all parties to participate effectively. Thorough preparation is critical to the overall effectiveness of the circle process. Preparation includes identifying possible supporters in the natural network of the family to participate in the process.

Gathering - All parties are brought together to express feelings & concerns and to develop mutually acceptable solutions to issues identified.

Follow-up - Regular communication and check-ins are used to assess progress and adjust agreements as conditions change.

Instructions:

- Using scissors cut the 4 stages apart, mix them randomly and place into an envelope. Each group is given an envelope and will be challenged to work collaboratively to place the 4 stages into the correct order.