



Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center: Circles of Peace Program

What is Circles of Peace?

"Circles of Peace" is a free program that helps address crime and harm to prevent it from happening again. It's different from the regular justice system. Instead of focusing on punishment, it looks at how the harm affected everyone involved and figures out ways to make things better.

Circles of Peace focuses on repairing the damage done, keeping everyone safe, and promoting healing. It's an alternative to the usual way of handling these things through the justice system.

Who runs Circles of Peace?

The program is run by Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center, a non-profit organization in the Columbia River Gorge. We are independent and not part of the legal system or law enforcement.

What is the cost to participate in Circles of Peace?

There is no cost; the program is free.

Why participate in Circles of Peace?

- Survivors of harm get to have a say in what happens next, including how much they want to be involved.
- People who caused harm get the chance to take responsibility for what they did and try to make things better.
- Studies show that this approach reduces the chances of harm happening again.
- Survivors usually feel satisfied with the process and the outcome.
- Taking part in these processes can help survivors feel safer and lessen the effects of trauma.

How does Circles of Peace work?

- Cases are referred to Circles of Peace by the Criminal Justice System.
- The Circles of Peace team meets with those involved to explain how the program works.
- Together, they decide if the case is suitable for the program. If it is, the case is handled by Circles of Peace instead of the regular justice system.



What happens during Circles of Peace?

For survivors: You can choose how much you want to participate. You might join talking circles where you discuss what happened and how it affected you. You might also have the option to communicate with the person who harmed you, if you want. If you choose, a stand-in or victim advocate could participate in talking circles instead of you.

For the person who caused harm: You'll have to join talking circles where you talk about the impact of your actions. You'll also agree to make things better as outlined in repair agreements. You might get to communicate with the survivor if they agree to it.

Is Circles of Peace safe for survivors?

Yes, ensuring survivor safety is a top priority. A certified victim advocate will be available when needed, and the Circles of Peace team will always monitor safety.

How long does Circles of Peace take?

It varies depending on the case. Some cases might be resolved quickly, while others could take months. Cases are closed when everyone involved and the facilitators agree it's time.

Where does Circles of Peace come from?

Circles of Peace is inspired by practices used by many cultures, especially Native American communities, for thousands of years. It's an ancient approach that has been proven effective over time, and the Circles of Peace team respects and acknowledges this history.

For more information, contact Six Rivers at info@6rivers.org; 541 386 1283.

Six Rivers Non-Discrimination Policy:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law, Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center, its employees, and those participating in or administering programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Any employee, board member, volunteer, contractor or client who believes that they have been discriminated against is strongly encouraged to report this concern promptly to the Program Manager, Executive Director or member of the Board of Directors.