

## **KAKE CIRCLE PEACEMAKING**

**-Our Way of Life-**

### **CORE COMMUNITY VALUES**

#### **"OUR ORIGINAL LAWS OF THE LAND":**

**Respect:** of self, Elders, Property, Everything

**Forgiveness:** of self and of Others

**Love:** of oneself and of Others

**Family:** your Clan, your Community and your Generosity

**Humor/Health:** a good balance: of physical, mental, emotional & spiritual

**Honesty:** you cannot remember all the lies...

**Sharing:** happiness, grieving, customary & traditional foods...

**Leadership:** being a good listener, servant,

Etc...Also Know As: "The Good Red Road" There are many more Values that can be included.

# **COMMUNITY JUSTICE: An Overview of Some Advantages**

## **BUILDS COMMUNITY – DEVELOPS:**

- Community resources for prevention and Healing
- Conflict Resolution and Participatory Skills
- Connections to Community (victims, offenders and all others)
- Better Relationships
- Respect & Understanding within the Community
- Ability of Individuals, families and Communities to take more responsibility for resolving Conflicts
- Community self-reliance

## **IMPROVES SERVICE DELIVERY:**

- Faster response to problems
- Coordinates Community, Government and Family Resources
- Sensitizes solutions to local conditions
- Addresses Cause – Not Just Symptoms

## **REDUCES:**

- Recidivism
- Dependence upon government
- Costs to State & Community

## **CHANGES INVESTMENT FROM:**

- Processing Crime to Healing Individuals, Families and Communities
- Professionals to Community Resources

## **BROADENS BASE OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

## **CHANGES FROM COURTS TO CIRCLE PEACEMAKING**

### **COURTS**

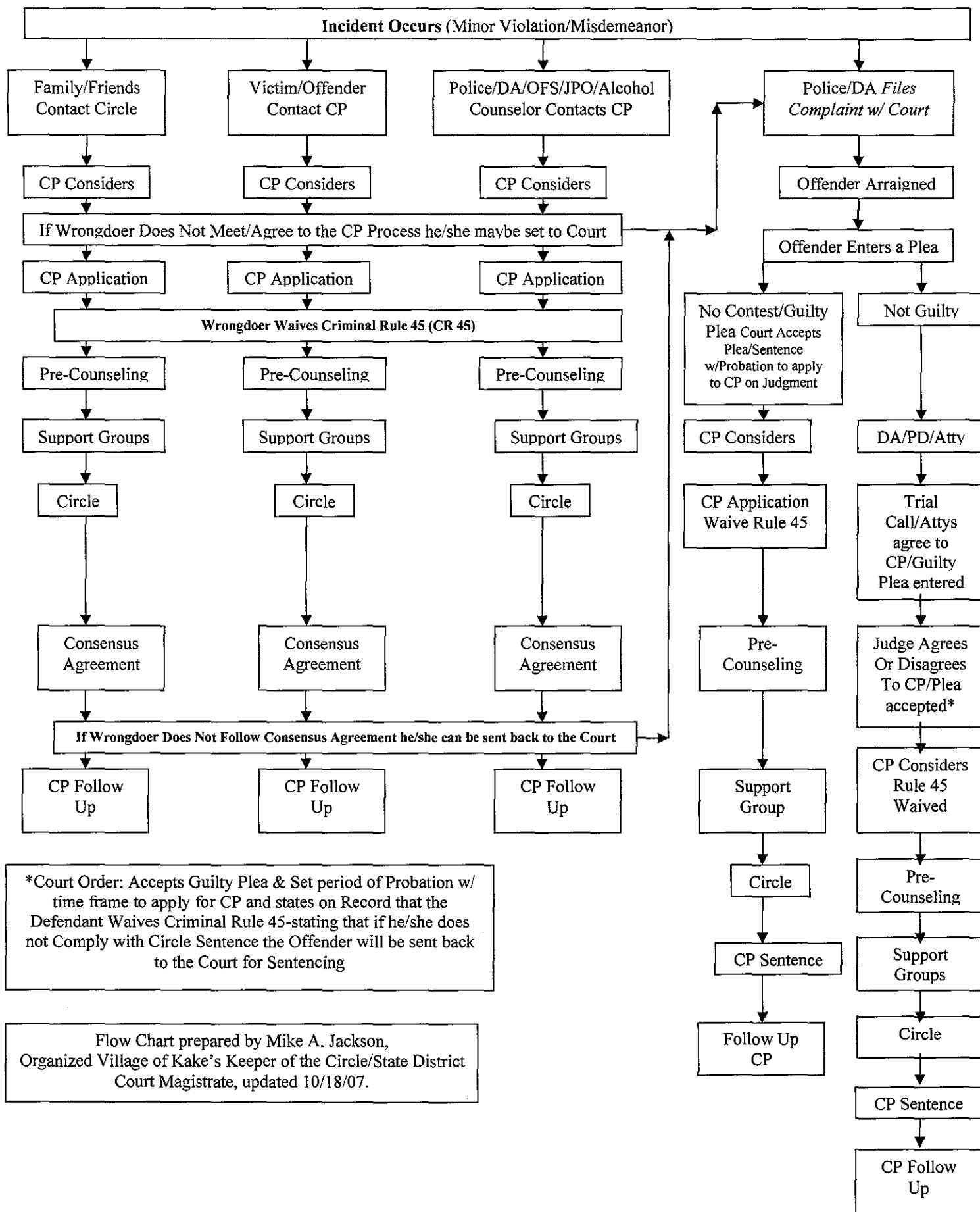
### **COMMUNITY CIRCLES**

<b>People:</b>	<b>Lawyers</b> Non-residents	..	..	..	<b>Local People</b>
<b>Process:</b>	<b>Adversarial</b> State v. Offender	..	..	..	<b>Consensus</b> Community v. Problem
<b>Issues:</b>	<b>Laws Broken</b>	..	..		<b>Relationships Broken</b>
<b>Focus:</b>	<b>Guilt/Offender</b>	..	..		<b>Holistic View</b> -needs of victim/Community -source of Problem -Resources for Solution
<b>Tools:</b>	<b>Punishment &amp; Control</b>	..	..		<b>Healing &amp; Support</b>
<b>Procedure :</b>	<b>Fixed Rules</b>	..	..		<b>Flexible Guidelines</b>
<b>Results:</b>	<b>Winners &amp; Losers</b>	..			<b>Remedial</b> -a plan laid out -healing begins for Victim & Family -Maximizes the Interest of all-for Wrongdoer & Community

It is important for communities to be involved in a process that directly affects the community. It is also essential that community members establish a working relationship & partnership with the Formal System-Alaska Court System & Circle Peacemaking. Our experiences show that when this is done it develops a much stronger Community.

# Kake Circle Peacemaking Flow Chart

*Different Routes to Circle Peacemaking (CP) but not limited to:*



# **GUIDELINES FOR CIRCLE PEACEMAKING**

**Gunalcheesh (Thank You) for all being here.**

- **Circle Begins in a good way (Prayer)**
- **Everyone is Equal, when we sit in a Circle for Peacemaking**
- **One Person Talks at a time (Talk from the Heart-Life Experiences)**
- **We Respect each other**
- **We Do Not Point the Blame (*We look forward*)**
- **Take Timely Breaks**
- **Everyone is Inclusive (We respect ones right to not comment)**
- **Everyone in the Room has to be Part of the Circle**
- **Everything Said in the Circle is *CONFIDENTIAL***
- **Circle Ends in a good way (Prayer)**

## **CONSENSUS AGREEMENT AND/OR SENTENCING PROCESS**

<b>The Hearing</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Who</b>
<b>Stage One:</b> Open the Circle	<b>Welcome</b> Opening Prayer ..... Circle Guidelines..... Introductions.....	<b>Keeper of the Circle</b> Keeper Selects (Elder) Keeper Explains All Participants
<b>Stage Two:</b> Legal Steps	<b>Legal Facts</b> State Opening..... Probation Report, if necessary..... Legal Summary .....	<b>Judge/Keeper/Police</b> What Happened Police/Probation Officer Judge/Keeper
<b>Stage Three:</b> Clarifying Information	<b>Support Group</b> Support Group Report.....	<b>Offender Group Head</b> Victim Group Head
<b>Stage Four:</b> Searching for Common Ground Exploring Options	<b>Talking Staff/Feather</b> Everyone, Victim and Offender speak last (apologies made) Summary.....	<b>All Participants</b> Keeper goes over suggestions
<b>Stage Five:</b> Developing Consensus	<b>Assessing Consensus</b> Talking Staff/Feather..... Setting Out Plan..... Consensus.....	<b>Keeper</b> All participants Keeper All participants
<b>Stage Six:</b> Closing	<b>Summary</b> Signing of Consensus/Sentence..... Closure ..... Closing Prayer	<b>Keeper</b> Victim & Wrongdoer <u>Everyone-very short comments</u> Keeper Selects

**Circles Include the “Balance of a Person”: *Emotional, Mental, Physical* and *SPIRITUAL* (spirituality is not part of State Court consideration of a person during their process)**

# KEEPERS OF THE CIRCLE

## How to help move Circles Towards Consensus

### **Guide Process:**

Guidelines have been developed within our Community. We ask you for suggestions for other guidelines to help our Circle.

### **Promote Equality:**

We all have important experiences and something to offer. Keep in mind how much time we have together & comments should be kept within a *set time limit*-by the Keeper of the Circle.

### **Generate Respect:**

We all are different-but all have something to learn from each other.

### **Share Responsibility:**

Problem belongs to all of us-and all of us have responsibility for finding Solutions.

### **Encourage New Ideas:**

Every idea is a good one-and helps us Work Together to find answers.

### **Seek Solutions that “Benefit Everyone”:**

Can we find a way to meet the needs of all who seek help Today?

### **Promote Brain Storming:**

Can we imagine some new ways to deal with these challenges?

### **Call Timely Breaks:**

We have accomplished a lot, I'd like to summarize what we have done and have left to do before taking a break.

### **Maintains Positive Perspective:**

It's difficult work, but we are moving forward in a good way.

### **Support one another:**

Tears are a sign of Healing-stand with and besides those that are in need of support.

## ***PRINCIPLES COMMON TO ALL CIRCLES***

### **Process:**

- **Consensus Approach** - everyone is given a chance to participate or can pass the talking piece
- **Interest Based** – each situation is different
- **Self-Designed** – each Circle is never the same
- **Flexible** – Circle can be put together relatively quick with attention given to details – process
- **Spiritual** – Each of us relate to our higher power – strength
- **Holistic Healing** – A plan is laid out to begin the Healing with follow ups

### **Participants:**

- **Inclusive** – everyone came because they care for the victim, wrongdoer, family and community
- **Voluntary** – caring people are here to give support, people's time are giving of their time to be present
- **Direct Participation** – everyone in the Circle has a say
- **Equal Opportunity** – no one there – in the Circle carries their title into the Circle
- **Respect** – is given to each other

### **Principles Derived from Circles:**

- **Peacemaking** – the balance is restored, apologies are made, the first steps in healing are made along with a plan
- **Mediation** – there are no winners or losers
- **Consensus Building** – all suggestions are heard, considered and gone over again
- **Partnership with the Court System** – on Circle Sentencing is Community Involvement