

# Guiding Principles: Family Meetings

What we say here  
remains in the room unless  
decided otherwise.



Listen Actively.

*Listening is a skill each council  
member endeavors to build.*



Keep the welfare and harmony  
of the family uppermost.

*Overriding intent of the  
Family Council.*



Only one family member  
talks at a time.

*Use the Talking Stick.*



Everyone will be given an  
opportunity to speak.



Share your opinions.

*Don't hide behind a vote.*



Keep an open mind.

*Remember that where you stand  
depends on where you sit.*

“EVERY CHILD GROWS UP IN A  
DIFFERENT FAMILY.”

—PERRY L. COCHELL

Individual perceptions are  
the reality of life.



Make “I” Statements.

*Talk about how you feel and  
what you think.*

*Don't speak for the group.*



Don't blame or attack.



Stick to the issues.



Understand the boundaries.

*The Family Council is not meant  
to provide a forum to solve 'old  
family conflicts', or delve into  
past family dysfunctional  
episodes or experiences.*



Always remember the 3 P's:

Permission

*You are invited and allowed to  
say what's on your mind.*

Protection

*What you say here stays here.*

Potency

*You will be heard.*

