

## Fearless Meeting Courtesies

1. Please silence cell phones. Texting during the meeting is not allowed.
2. If you are still under supervision, it is up to YOU to make sure you are not in violation.
3. What is said here – stays here.
4. This is not the time or place to “preach to the choir.” Sharing should be about yourself and how you are affected – your challenges and successes.
5. We are here to share our OWN thoughts, feelings, and experiences.
6. We try not to discuss or name offenses. Instead we simply acknowledge that we and/or a loved one are required to register.
7. We try to accept people just as they are, and we avoid making judgments.
8. Please watch the time and keep your sharing to about 5 minutes. However, feel free to share more than once during the meeting.
9. We give supportive attention to the person who is speaking and avoid side conversations and/or interruptions.
10. We avoid giving advice or counseling during the meeting. We use “I” language – not “you” or “we” or “they.”
11. Each of us is encouraged to participate to whatever extent we feel comfortable.
12. We have the right to speak, and the right to remain silent.
13. If a meeting is already in progress, please enter quietly so as not to disturb the group’s concentration, or that of the person who is speaking.
14. We are Family. Family members don’t choose each other. They may not even always like each other! But like any good family, we are all in this together and encourage each other in every way we can.
15. We begin and end our meetings on time.
16. Take what you need, and leave the rest behind.



Fearless groups are aimed specifically at providing a supportive community for persons who are required to register, along with their family members and significant others who face the same challenges, which are immense. Fearless groups may initially be launched or promoted by an advocacy group. Ideally, however, they will run independently and have no direct ties to any particular advocacy organization. Instead, group members are encouraged to launch or get involved in such organizations as a part of becoming “fearless.”

### Three Key Goals of Fearless Groups:

- *Ending the fear we experience* as registered citizens or friends and family of registered citizens.
- *Ending the fear of the general public* due to false stereotypes and hype regarding registered citizens.
- *Helping each other* to overcome obstacles and succeed in life, in spite of the laws that keep us down.

## About Fearless Meetings

Meetings are held in a location that can provide plenty of privacy and a safe and comfortable atmosphere for sharing. There are two components to the meetings: (1) a presentation, and (2) sharing, discussion, and feedback.

The presentation component is open somewhat, with the group's knowledge and consent, and can involve a presentation by a guest, or a recording of a useful presentation from another source. The sharing and discussion portion is completely private, open only to registrants and their adult family members. This portion of the meeting is NOT open to law enforcement or state-paid treatment professionals.

Meetings begin with a reading of our Courtesies by all present, and also may include a group reading of the Fearless Manifesto. The two main portions of the meeting can come in any order, depending on the topic and on preferences of the group. The presentation is an opportunity to introduce participants to ways to take charge of their own lives and affect change in the laws that oppress them.

In the sharing and discussion portion participants are encouraged to do a very quick check-in: where they are, what they may be dealing with etc. then proceed to discussion and feedback on a range of topics selected by the moderator or brought up by group members. Examples include:

- The presentation topic
- Sharing your story with others
- Taking care of ourselves
- Discuss a manifesto declaration
- Combatting sadness
- Coping with stress
- Getting past fear
- Letting go of anger

Participants are encouraged, via "I statements," to give feedback on the discussion topic or things that other participants have brought up. Courtesies are encouraged at all times, and attendees are encouraged but never required to speak.

## Fearless Group Traditions

1. Fearless is expressly for registrants and their families and significant others.
2. The only other requirement for Fearless participation is a desire to end the fear stemming from public registration.
3. Each group's primary purpose is to reach out to other registrants and registered families and help them succeed in life.
4. Our common good comes first; individual success comes through group effort.
5. Anonymity is paramount; we must always uphold our principles and purpose – not personalities.
6. Our group authority comes from our group's conscience. Group leaders may guide but do not govern.
7. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or the Fearless movement as a whole.
8. Fearless groups should not endorse, finance, or lend their group's name to any other program or activity; otherwise problems of money, property, and prestige might take away from our primary purpose.
9. Fearless groups should be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
10. Fearless groups are non-professional.
11. Fearless groups have no opinion on outside issues; that way the Fearless name will never be drawn into public controversy.
12. Our public relations are based on word-of-mouth, not promotion; individuals should remain anonymous in any contact with press, radio, and films.