

Philosophy of Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice acknowledges that when a person does harm, it affects the people they hurt, the community and themselves. It requires that we address victims' harms and needs, hold offenders accountable to put right those harms, and involve victims, offenders, and communities in this process.

Restorative Justice provides opportunities for:

- Victims to be heard and to decide how their needs can best be met.
- Offenders to become active participants in repairing the harm they have done.
- Community members to develop community-based crime prevention efforts.

“ CRIME WOUNDS...
JUSTICE HEALS ”

Restorative Justice Logo

Courtesy of Dick Nelson, Johnston Design Office

The Circle is the symbol of life, constantly evolving, constantly changing, but always interconnected. The circle in this case is broken into halves – one positive, one negative. The scars which can be seen on the top and bottom of the circle suggest that some type of healing has taken place. The two broken halves coming together also reinforce the completion of the hand in the middle, which can be seen only when the two halves are put together.

The Hand symbolizes healing, the human aspect of the program. It says that compassion is a key element in the process of healing.

The Heart symbolizes that the healing process needs to go deep – it must go to the center of the problem, and it must go to the soul of the person.

The Typeface for the written name is called City. It was selected because it has an authoritative feel, suggesting that it can withstand much. It says, THIS IS Restorative Justice.



Restorative Justice Program



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Restorative Justice Program

The Restorative Justice Program offers two types of restorative processes—Victim/Offender Conferencing and Community Conferencing. After receiving a referral, program staff determine which process best fits the case based on the incident and participants.

All restorative processes are held in a safe and structured setting with the assistance of a trained facilitator. The facilitator's role is to prepare the participants prior to the meeting and to assist the parties in communicating respectfully during the process.



Victim/Offender Conferencing

Victim/Offender Conferencing involves the community of people most affected by wrongdoing (victims and their supporters, offenders and their supporters, and representatives of the community) to decide the resolution of a criminal or harmful incident.

The parties discuss how people have been harmed by the incident and how that harm might be repaired. The session ends with the participants coming to a mutually acceptable agreement on how to address the harm and how future harms might be prevented.



Criteria

- Identifiable victim
- Victim willing to participate

Community Conferencing

Community Conferencing recognizes the community as a victim of crime and promotes meaningful accountability for offenders. It brings together a panel of community representatives with offenders and their supporters. Law enforcement, school, or other agency representatives may also participate.

The process holds offenders accountable for harms caused to the community and decides ways to repair this harm in a safe, constructive, and dignified manner. The process is intended to heal, strengthen, and empower the community.

Criteria

- No identifiable victim
- Victim not able to participate

Restorative Justice Agreement

In both processes, conference participants determine an agreement together. The agreement is intended to address any harm that was caused by the incident and prevent future harms.

Agreements can include:

- **Apologies**—verbal/written to any affected party
- **Service Work**—for the victim and/or community
- **Financial**—payment to the victim, donation of money
- **Education Opportunities**—essay, presentation, or class
- **Treatment/Counseling**—chemical, mental health, etc
- **Other**—anything that feels fair to all participants.