

Restorative Justice: Overview of Dialogue Practices

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What is Restorative Justice?

An **approach to** dealing with **crime and conflict** which focuses on identifying and **repairing the harm** caused to individuals and communities.

By hearing the perspectives of the people involved, RJ aims to strengthen relationships and prevent further harm from happening.

Accountability Criteria

- **Acknowledging** that you caused harm
- **Understanding the harm** from the other person's viewpoint
- **Recognizing that you had a choice**
- **Taking steps to make amends** (*apology, repair of harm*)
- **Taking action to make changes** in your life so that it is unlikely to happen again

(National Institute of Corrections,
Restorative Principles, Practice and Implementation)

Restorative Practices

- **Victim Offender Dialogue**
- **Community Group Conferencing**
- **Family Group Conferencing**
- **Community Justice Panels**
- **Prevention Circles**
- **Restorative Healing Circles**
- Impact of Crime Curriculum
- Apology letters
- Victim Impact Statements
- Restitution and Community Service
- Victim Impact Panels

Repairing harm

Inclusive participation

Respectful relationship

Mediation & Victim Offender Dialogue

- Voluntary for everyone
- Intake and clear understanding of roles is important
- Decisions are up to the parties
- Mediators / Facilitators support the needs of the parties through skills of active listening, checking in, and summarizing.
- May be done as a stand-alone process, or as an alternative to a legal process
- Agreements are determined by the needs of the parties and the referral source

Mediation & Victim Offender Dialogue

Mediation:

- Pre-meetings are optional
- Content and process are up to the parties
- Parties determine ground rules and agreement items
- Mediator is neutral

Victim Offender Dialogue:

- Pre-meetings are essential
- Core elements of the process are pre-determined
- Facilitator ensures that RJ principles are upheld
- Facilitator supports both parties and prioritizes victims needs in process choices

Restorative Justice

Values

Respect

Relationships

Accountability

Transformation

Voluntary

Participation

Humility

Interconnection

Diversity

Self-determination

Hope

Honesty

Understanding

Healing

Collaborative

Decision-Making



Thank You!

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cultivating authentic and caring relationships