



What is Restorative Justice?



Restorative Justice ...

...is an alternative way to look at the juvenile justice system. Crime is viewed as an offense against the community, which includes the victim and the offender, rather than against the state. Restorative Justice focuses on repairing the harm to victims, communities, and offenders that occurs when a crime is committed.

When approaching crime using restorative justice principles:

- Victims have an active role in the justice system. They are empowered to ensure that their own needs are met and resolve the feelings toward the crime that was committed. As a result, victims receive adequate reparation and can walk away from the experience feeling satisfied that justice has been served.
- Communities can enjoy a lower crime rate and safer neighborhoods. They can address their justice issues on a local level and find solutions that work for their unique circumstances. This involves a commitment to crime prevention programs and rehabilitation for the offender.
- Offenders are required to accept responsibility for their crimes and must take an active role in repairing the damage their crime has created. In the process, they are exposed to crime prevention programs and come away from the system with a better understanding of the consequences of their actions and the skills to make better decisions in the future.

“Justice is not primarily about the punishment of the perpetrator, but rather about the vindication of the victim.”

Dr. Biggar
Oxford University



“Through a firm commitment to the principles and values of Restorative Justice, the Sacramento County Probation Department and its volunteers are restoring victims and families; strengthening neighborhoods; and ensuring public safety through offender accountability.”

Verne L Speirs
Chief Probation Officer

Three principles form the foundation for restorative justice:

1. Justice requires that we work to restore those who have been injured.
2. Those most directly involved and affected by crime should have the opportunity to participate fully in the response if they wish.
3. Government's role is to preserve public order, and the community's role is to build and maintain peace.

Restorative programs are characterized by four key values:

Encounter: Create opportunities for victims, offenders and community members who want to do so, to meet and discuss the crime and its aftermath.

Amends: Expect offenders to take steps to repair the harm they have caused.

Reintegration: Seek to restore victims and offenders to whole, contributing members of society.

Inclusion: Provide opportunities for parties with a stake in a specific crime to participate in its resolution.



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Crime results in injuries to victims, communities and offenders. The criminal justice process should repair those injuries

Justice is best served when the principles of "victim restoration, offender accountability & competency, and community protection," are balanced.

The Sacramento County Probation Department is committed to implementing the principles of Restorative Justice within the Juvenile Justice System and need volunteers to help facilitate these programs.

How do I get involved?

For further inquires call:

David Taft
(916) 875- 0576
taftd@saccounty.net

All programs require the volunteer to under go finger printing and a criminal background check. Training is also required. The amount of training required varies with whatever program you choose.

We are happy to provide a speaker at no expense for any social group, service club, church, college class etc., who would like to know more about these programs.