

# What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice is a response to crime that emphasizes repairing the harm that was created by the wrongdoing.

## Restorative Justice...

- Provides the opportunity for everyone who has been directly or indirectly involved in a crime to have a voice in how to repair the harm that was caused
- Gives communities the opportunity to be involved in the justice process
- Allows individuals and communities to seek justice in a restorative way

## Benefits of Restorative Justice

If you are an offender, restorative justice allows you to:

- Assume accountability for your actions
- Hear how your actions affected others
- Apologize to the victim
- Have a voice in deciding how the harm should be repaired
- Begin the process of restoring trust

If you are a victim, restorative justice allows you to:

- Opportunity to be heard
- Tell the offender how you and others have been affected
- Have a voice in deciding how the harm should be repaired
- Have any questions answered about the crime, such as: Was I targeted? Will it happen again? Am I safe?

# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM



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## Clay County Restorative Justice Program

Restorative Justice is a process that brings together all the parties affected by harm. This is done by holding a conference to discuss the impact of the harm.

In Clay County there are two types of conferences: Accountability Conference and Community Circle.

Prior to a conference being held, participants will meet with a trained facilitator to talk about the incident, learn about the Restorative Justice process, and answer any questions they may have before moving forward with a conference.

The main goal during a conference is to come up with a way to repair the harm caused, this is done by completing an Accountability Agreement. Each conference, whether Accountability Conference or Community Circle, will work to come up with an agreement all parties are satisfied with.

This program is at no cost to participants.

## Accountability Conference

Accountability Conferencing involves the people most affected by wrongdoing (victims and their supporters, offenders and their supporters, and in some situations 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 Circle

Community Circle 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

### ***Potential Agreement Options***

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

Other—anything that feels fair to all participants