

Types of Restorative Justice

A restorative justice process involves the victim and the person who caused harm. The process is flexible and could take many forms, including:

Restorative justice dialogues enable the victim and the person who has caused harm to come together to discuss the impact of the harm, the victim's ensuing needs and to find ways to address these needs. These processes also allow the victim to ask questions they may have (such as why they were harmed). The causes which lead to the crime can also be understood through the process and attempted to be addressed.



Restorative justice circles or conferencing involve not only the person who has caused harm and the victim, but also their families and community. These processes widen the scope of the discussion to include the offence's impact on family members and other participants. Typically, the processes result in a redress agreement which includes agreed-upon obligations for the person who caused harm.



Restorative Processes

Restorative processes may not always involve both the person harmed and the person who caused harm. These types of processes are referred to as restorative processes (and not restorative justice processes):

Offender re-entry circles involve the person who caused harm and their family and community. These processes help the person who caused harm transition back into society, particularly after being institutionalized. Re-entry circles help identify the support required in order to ensure they don't commit another crime. The victim is not involved in these processes.



Victim support circles involve the person harmed and their family and community. The aim of these processes is to help persons harmed process the harm caused with their family and find ways to collectively heal. The offender is not involved in these processes



Process	People involved	Indicators	Stages
Restorative justice conference/circle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Victim · Victim's support persons · Offender · Offender support persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Harm to be repaired · Offender admits to the act · Victim wants to meet offender · Supportive family members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Meet with victim/offender, assess suitability · Meet with other party assess suitability · Preparation processes with each party and their family · Process · Follow up
Victim support circles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Victim · Victim's support persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Victim has been harmed · Family members acknowledge the act · Gap in collective understanding of harm, needs, impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Meet with victim · Meet with victim's family · Preparation with both · Process · Follow up
Offender support circles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Offender · Offender's support persons · Mentor (CBO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Admitting harm not necessary · Need support to not reoffend or to reintegrate with family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Meet with offender · Meet with offender's family · Preparation with both · Process · Follow up