

WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?



Restorative Justice is a completely voluntary process whose goal is to have participants engage in difficult conversations, listening for understanding, in an effort to hear and heal harm.

Restorative Justice emphasizes repairing the harm caused by criminal behavior. By working with those involved, a restorative justice approach can lead to transformation of people, relationships, and communities.



HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Set aside 15-30 minutes and call the Dispute Resolution Center Monday through Friday between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. One of our Intake Specialists will answer any questions and help you decide if Restorative Justice is appropriate for your situation. We may ask you for the names and phone numbers of the other parties involved so we can contact them. Your conversation with us is completely confidential and we will not share any details of what you say with the other party.

Dispute Resolution Center
of Thurston County

PO Box 6184
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Phone: (360) 956-1155
MediateThurston.org

We are not a walk-in center. Please call us if you need services or would like to make an appointment.



Dispute Resolution Center
OF THURSTON COUNTY



Restorative Justice Facilitated Dialogue



Dispute Resolution Center
OF THURSTON COUNTY



WHO USES RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Person(s) who experienced harm who may:


- Explain the impacts of crime
- Get answers to questions
- Process fears about revictimization
- Be directly involved with the justice process
- Make a positive change

Drug court participants who may:

- Take responsibility for actions
- Tell their story and be heard
- Have the opportunity to make amends
- Be directly involved with the justice process

WHY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Restorative Justice provides the opportunity to repair harm caused by crime. A majority of program participants report improved relationships with family, friends, and the community. The intended outcome of the process is not to solve the issue at hand or determine guilt, but rather to create a space for deepening understanding, building shared awareness, generating trust, rebuilding relationships, and creative problem solving.



WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES?

For the person(s) who experienced harm:

- Opportunity to meet with the participant to address what happened
- Chance to tell the participant the impacts of this crime
- Chance to get answers to questions
- Possibility of receiving a personal apology
- Possibility to let go of hurt and anger
- Opportunity to have a wrong made right
- Chance to be able to forgive in-person
- Chance to experience closure and reestablish a sense of personal safety

For the drug court participant:

- Input into what restitution will be and how it will be paid or worked off (in addition to any court orders)
- Possibility of working out non-monetary restitution
- Chance to demonstrate to the court one's willingness to be responsible
- Opportunity to understand what it was like for the other party(ies) involved
- Chance to make things right and increase self-esteem
- Opportunity for possible forgiveness
- Chance to get a sense of closure/resolution

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Referral:

- Referrals will be made to the DRC by the Thurston County Drug Court program with input from various stakeholders

Intake:

- DRC Intake Specialists will contact each participant to gather information and determine if facilitated dialogue will be a good fit for their situation

Preparation:

- Facilitators will meet with each participant individually to help clarify interests and issues
- Participants will agree to act in good faith by being willing to listen, keep an open mind, share important information, and work together to restore the relationship

Conferencing:

- Facilitators will work to schedule a meeting where healing and closure can be achieved through addressing the concerns of each person
 - Participants will be given equal opportunity to share their story, the impacts, and offer solutions for resolution
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