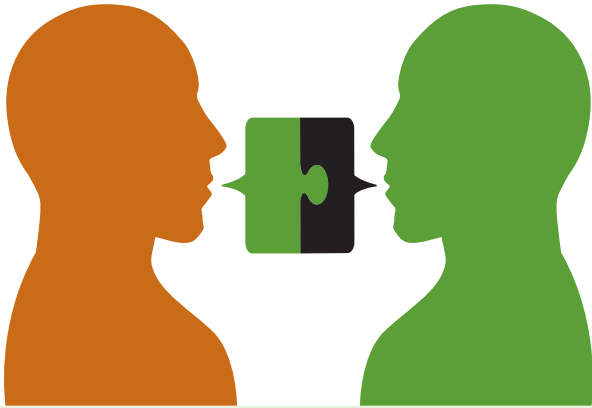


What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative justice (RJ) is a set of principles that gives rise to practices that adhere to the idea that crime hurts victims, communities, and offenders. It centers the needs of people directly harmed and addresses root causes of criminal activity. Restoration refers to repairing the harm done and rebuilding relationships in the community affected by crime.

The Restorative Justice Program is modeled after indigenous cultural traditions and peacemaking practices of the Native people of North America and New Zealand.



Research

Studies show, in comparison to the traditional criminal justice system:

- Offenders are highly accountable, fulfilling agreements and committing fewer future crimes.
- Victims/ persons harmed express higher levels of satisfaction with outcome of their cases, are more likely to receive sincere apologies from the responsible person and suffer less from post-traumatic stress symptoms.

How is it different from criminal justice?

Restorative Justice shifts the focus of the system from the offender and how to punish them to the victim and what they need to move forward.

The traditional system asks:

- What laws have been broken?
- Who did it?
- What do we do to that person?

Restorative Justice asks:

- Who has been hurt?
- What are their needs?
- How do we meet those needs?

Contact Info

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For more information visit:

www.pcao.pima.gov/restorative-justice

Program Partners



Restorative Justice Program

Pima County Attorney's Office

A victim-centric, offender-focused, community-led response to crime.

Information for Harmed Party/Victim

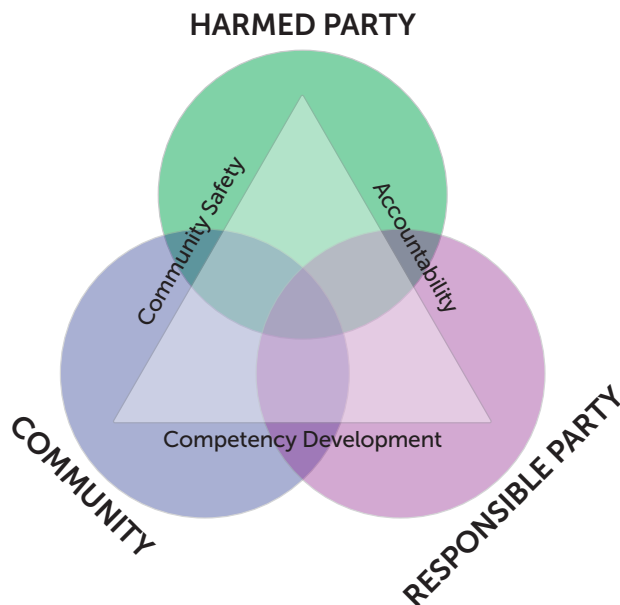
www.pcao.pima.gov/restorative-justice

Program Process

The Restorative Justice Program is a community-led adult diversion program for eligible offenses. The program is for offenders who accept responsibility for their actions and who choose to participate in the restorative justice process.

Phase 1: RJP facilitators (trained volunteers) meet with both the victim/person harmed and the responsible person separately to discuss the incident.

Phase 2: The responsible person, victim/person harmed, and community members then meet in an RJ circle, with the help of the facilitators, to talk about the harms that occurred, and create an agreement outlining steps the responsible person will take to repair the harm.



Source: University of Wisconsin-Madison Restorative Justice Project

Potential Benefits of RJ Process for Harmed Party

- The ability to **directly express how you have been impacted** to the person responsible in a confidential, safe space.
- The opportunity to have your **questions answered** by the responsible party about what and why this happened.
- The opportunity to have a **direct role in shaping** the response to how the harm you experienced can be repaired based on what you need and what the responsible person can do to make things as right as possible. This can include restitution and other amends such as an apology, community service, counseling, etc.
- The ability to have your case **resolved faster** than in the traditional court system.
- The opportunity to be **listened to, heard, and supported** by RJ facilitators to help you move forward in a positive way.

Victim vs Harmed Party

*Restorative Justice uses the language of harmed party/responsible party to reflect its position as being outside of the traditional justice system.

What Does Participation Look Like?

Participation is entirely voluntary, and victims have the option to leave the process at any time.

Interested harmed parties can participate through:

- **Direct participation:** personally participate and attend the restorative justice circle.
- **Indirect participation:** have a victim surrogate, or choose someone you know to go in place of you. To be sensitive and responsive to crime victims, RJP offers several additional ways harmed parties can be involved if they do not wish to meet directly with the person who harmed them.



Restorative Justice Program volunteers complete training by The Center for Community Mediation and Facilitation

Who can you bring?

Both the victim/ person harmed and the responsible person can bring anyone they think would provide comfort, such as a trusted family member or friend.