

What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice views crime through a different lens

- ❖ Crime is more than lawbreaking.
- ❖ If crime is more than lawbreaking, justice must require more than punishing or treating the offender.
- ❖ Crime is a wound that injures victims, communities and offenders; therefore, the justice process should heal and repair the injuries of all stakeholders.
- ❖ Crime damages people and relationships. Justice should be about repairing the harm.



What is the mission of Restorative Justice Louisville?

To bring together the victim, offender and the community to make things right.

What are the values of Restorative Justice Louisville?

We value victim needs and voices.

We welcome offenders who take ownership and accept responsibility for their actions.

We seek involvement from the community and of loved ones of victims and offenders.

We use culturally appropriate, consensus decision-making to assist those effected in figuring out how to make things right.

We value good citizenship, recognizing the rights and responsibilities of all.

We operate within the criminal justice system and recognize due process for all involved.

What Restorative Practice is used by Restorative Justice Louisville?



Family Group Conferencing (FGC) is decision-making meeting led by trained facilitators that provides an opportunity for a victim (or victim representative) and his/her family/support persons to meet face to face with the offender(s) and his/her family/support persons. It is the goal of the FGC to accomplish the following tasks: (1) repair the harm caused by the offense; (2) address the needs of the victim; (3) provide support to offender(s) as he/she takes responsibility for the offense; and (4) engage the offender's family and support persons to play a role in promoting positive behavioral change. The outcome of the conference is an individualized plan, which is agreed to by all parties and sets forth action steps for the offender to repair the harm to the victim and the community.

Adapted from The Little Book of Family Group Conferences: New Zealand Style by Allen MacRae & Howard Zehr

What is the conference process?

- The victim(s), the offender(s), and their family members/support person(s) voluntarily agree to participate in the conference process.
- The victim(s) and his/her support person(s) meet with trained facilitators to identify and discuss the impact the crime.
- The offender and his/her family/support persons meet with trained facilitators to discuss accepting responsibility for role in the offense and identify possible

ways to repair the harm done to the victim(s).

- The victim(s), offender(s) and their respective families/support person(s) meet face to face in a conference conducted by trained facilitators.
- An agreement is developed that addresses the harm done to the victim(s).

- ✓ Victims can openly express to the offender how the crime has affected them and their families.



Why Would a Victim Choose to Participate?

Through participation in a Family Group Conference, victims participate *directly* in the justice process. The process is dignified and respectful. Important points about conferencing are:

- ✓ Victims have an opportunity to pose questions about the crime directly to the offender.
- ✓ The process facilitates real and agreed upon steps the offender can take to help restore the harm caused to the victim and the community.
- ✓ The offender is made more aware just how his or her actions have impacted the victim specifically and, if appropriate, the community generally.



Restorative Justice
Louisville

For More Information, Please Contact:
Libby Mills, Executive Director
LibbyMills@rjlou.org
Tel: 502-574-6869
www.rjlou.org