



Restorative justice is an approach

Restorative Justice is NOT...

- It is not a particular program or blueprint.
- It is not necessarily an alternative to the criminal justice system or incarceration.
- It is not exclusively for young offenders and less serious offenses.
- Restorative justice is not easy or “just a slap on the wrist”.



Contact Us

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**The Marin County
Probation Department**

Marin County Restorative Justice Program

*A victim-offender
dialogue program*

*Working towards repairing,
restoring & healing*



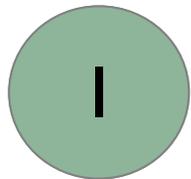
What is Restorative Justice?

"Restorative justice is a process to involve, to the extent possible, those who have a stake in an offense and to collectively identify and address harms, needs and obligations, in order to heal and put things right as possible."

~Zehr, H.



Three main components of Restorative Justice:



Victim

The individual harmed



Offender

The individual who caused harm



Community

Place where the harm was committed

About our program

- Our program offers all parties involved in or affected by a crime an opportunity to participate in a restorative justice process. This addresses the issues related to the incident.
- It's an invitation for each participant affected to speak and be heard, while providing all parties a safe space to ask questions, share their experiences and receive information & support while respecting confidentiality.
- It also promotes a process in which the parties collaborate to create a plan of action that reflects their mutual understanding and responsibilities.
- Those who have done wrong have a chance to accept their responsibility and take steps to repair the harm to the extent deemed possible and in a way that is meaningful to the victim.

FAQ's



- **What if I find out this process is not for me?** Participation is completely voluntary and you can choose to not participate at any time throughout the process.
- **Do I have to meet the person who caused me harm?** No. A meeting face-to-face (also known as a circle) is only held when both parties wish to meet. There are other methods of communication in which an agreement can be reached between parties.
- **Is there an expectation for me to forgive the offender?** No. Although forgiveness can happen in some cases, we believe forgiveness is a personal decision and should not be demanded or expected.
- **What types of cases are considered for this program?** We accept cases where the accused has accepted responsibility for the harm caused and is willing to make amends. The program aims to provide diversion level services for persons charged with lower level crimes in the adult system. It also offers restorative services to persons currently on probation and to the victims of their crimes. Currently, we work with any misdemeanor or felony case with the exception of domestic violence.