What’s Restorative Justice?

Restorative justice seeks to repair the harm caused by crime through involvement of both the offender and the victim. The approach serves as an alternative to traditional crime-focused, punitive sentencing. With the cooperation of all stakeholders, a resolution can be brought forth to repair the damages of the crime hopefully resulting in fundamental changes in people, relationships, and ultimately communities.

Four Components of Restorative Justice

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<th>Inclusion</th>
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<td>generosity</td>
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Why is it so important for juvenile offenders?

Restorative Justice practices stigmatizes the act versus the offender, thus allowing the offender an opportunity to reconnect with members of the community and their family to adopt a positive self-image (Tyler et al., 2007), and reduces the chance of the individual “adopting a deviant master status” (Hay, 2001, p. 134), thus making them decreasing their likelihood to recidivate (i.e. Rodriguez, 2007).

Restorative Justice Versus Traditional Juvenile Court Proceedings

Figure 1. Bouffard, Cooper, and Bergseth (2017) reveal the significant relationship reoffending and RJ practices versus juvenile court proceedings. (N=551)

Restorative Justice Interventions

- Victim-Offender Meditation
- Family Group Conferencing
- Circle Sentencing
- Victim Representative by Proxy
- Community/Reparative Boards
- Victim Impact Panels
- Community/Restitution Services

Advocacy

- International Juvenile Justice Observatory & European Council for Juvenile Justice
- National Impact Justice
- Florida Restorative Justice Association
- Local River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding

References


