



Restorative Justice Information and Directory

Restorative Justice is a philosophy and approach to addressing harm that focuses on repairing relationships and facilitating healing for all parties involved, with an emphasis on centering the survivor's wishes. Instead of seeking punishment, restorative justice focuses on the impact of wrongdoing on the survivor, offender, and the community, aiming for accountability and positive transformation. Restorative Justice can take many forms, and it can be used in addition to or in place of traditional legal remedies.

Examples of Restorative Justice Practices

Victim-Offender Mediation:

A trained mediator facilitates a dialogue between the survivor and the offender. They discuss the impact of the actions on the survivor, and together they work on a plan for restitution and actions to repair the harm.

Restorative Circles:

Restorative circles bring together the survivor, offender, and relevant community members. Everyone has the opportunity to share their perspectives and collaboratively develop a plan to address the harm.

Community Conferencing:

This involves a more extensive gathering, including the survivor, offender, community members, and often representatives from various support services. The group discusses the incident, its impact, and collectively determines appropriate actions to repair harm.



Victim Impact Panel:

Survivors of harm are able to speak to groups of offenders and share their stories. Victim Impact Panels do not require survivors to engage with the person who harmed them. It gives them the opportunity to speak with people who have caused similar harm. The goal of these panels is to provide the survivor a cathartic experience and to allow offenders to see the impact of their actions.

Restorative Boards or Panels:

In some cases, a board or panel of community members may be involved in the decision-making process. They collaborate with the survivor and offender to design a plan that addresses the harm and promotes accountability.

Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA):

COSA involves a group of community volunteers who provide support and guidance to the offender as they reintegrate into the community after serving their sentence. The focus is on preventing further harm and fostering positive change.

Family Group Conferencing:

Especially relevant in juvenile justice, family group conferencing may involve the survivor and their family. When appropriate and desired by the survivor, it may also include the offender and their family. Together, they discuss the incident and collaboratively create a plan for repairing harm and preventing future wrongdoing.

Illinois Restorative Justice Providers

Statewide Resources

- Shared Roots Mediation
 - www.sharedrootsmediation.com/support
 - Intake Process: Select “Contact Us” on the website. Fill out the requested information and select the desired service
 - Services: Victim-Offender Mediation, Community/Healing Circles, Vicarious Dialogue, Mediation
 - In-person services in the Chicago Area and virtual services offered statewide

Chicago Area Resources

- Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation
 - <https://www.pbmr.org/contact>
 - (773) 952-6643
 - Intake Process: Call (773) 952-6643 or submit a message through the online portal
 - Services: healing circles, victim-offender mediation
- I Grow Chicago
 - <https://www.igrowchicago.org/our-work/restorative-justice-community-building/>
 - (773) 498-3948
 - contact@igrowchicago.org
 - Services: monthly peace circles, meetings, support groups and community dinners, community pantry (food, toiletries, diapers)



- Healing Beyond Harm
 - <https://healingbeyondharm.org/about/>
 - Intake Process: Use the website form [Get Involved - Healing Beyond Harm](#) and select which service you would like more information about
 - Services: harm dialogue, apology letter bank

ICASA would like to expand this list of restorative justice service providers that offer services to survivors of sexual assault and abuse in Illinois. Please contact Rexann Whorton at rwhorton@icasa.org or 217-753-4117, if you are aware of an organization that might be interested in being added to this directory.

** ICASA thanks Hannah Baity, our Fall 2023 Legal Intern, for developing this resource.*