



Information about Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice is NOT:

- Primarily about forgiveness or reconciliation
- Mediation
- A particular program or blueprint
- Necessarily a replacement for the legal system
- Necessarily an alternative to prison
- About minimizing or discounting the victim's needs

Restorative Justice IS:

- Concerned about needs and roles
- About victim needs and offender responsibility for repairing harm
- About focusing on the who and the how
- About involving victims, offenders, and the community

Things you should know

- This program is designed to be short term (usually 30 to 60 days).
- Offenders on Probation from the Court will be under supervision of the Department of Corrections while participating in this program.
- Offenders referred by Police Dept will be monitored by the Police Officer who referred the case and by the Winooski Community Justice Center.



Winooski CJC
Patty Niquette – RJ Panel
Manager

27 West Allen Street
Winooski, VT

Phone: (802) 655-0221

Fax: (802) 655-6427

Email: pniquette@winooskipolice.com

Information for Victims and Affected Parties



Winooski
Community Justice
Center



Restorative Justice Panel
Program

The Restorative Justice Panel Process

The RJ Panel is a community based program in which offenders meet with a volunteer board and victims when appropriate. Offenders who are eligible for this program have completed the court process, or have been referred directly by a Police Officer, and have admitted their guilt. During the first meeting offenders are expected to discuss with the volunteers, and others present, the circumstances surrounding their crime. Together a contract is negotiated consisting of activities designed to help the offender meet the goals of the program.

“I believe it helped the offender understand how serious what he did was.”

-Quote from victim survey

Goals:

- *Address the needs of the victims
- *Make amends to the community
- *Learn the impact of the crime
- *Learn ways to avoid re-offense

Examples of victim involvement

- Attend a RJ Panel meeting with the offender present.
- Meet with the RJ Panel without the offender present.
- Write a letter about how you have been affected to be read to the Panel and/or your offender.
- Have a surrogate attend the Panel in your place.
- Have a representative relate your experience, feelings, and ideas to the Panel.
- Have a Panel representative keep you updated on the progress of the case.
- Group conferencing (a facilitated meeting including victim, offender, and support people for each).

Examples of activities included in contracts

- Apology to victim
- Volunteer work for the victim
- Community Service work
- Letter to be published in the Front Page Forum
- Research paper
- Thinking paper
- Financial restitution of uninsured losses to the victim

“It made me feel good to know that the board members really cared about what happened to me.”

-Quote from victim survey

Your Rights

- *To be involved in the RJ Panel process in a manner that makes you most comfortable.
- *To have the opportunity to express the impact of the offender’s behavior on you.
- *To have input in the process of negotiating the offender’s RJ Panel contract.

Our Responsibilities

- *To keep you informed about the offender’s progress in the RJ Panel case, if you so desire.
- *To assist you in your involvement with the RJ Panel Program, to the extent in which you wish to be involved.