

Definition:

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

The goals of restorative justice:

- put key decisions into the hands of those most affected by crime
- make justice more healing and, ideally, more transformative, and
- reduce the likelihood of future offenses.

Achieving these goals requires that:

- victims are involved in the process and come out of it satisfied,
- offenders understand how their actions have affected other people and take responsibility for those actions,
- outcomes help to repair the harms done and address the reasons for the offense (specific plans are tailored to the victim's and the offender's needs), and
- victim and offender both gain a sense of "closure" and both are integrated into the community

