

"I didn't realize how what I did affected so many people. I'm sorry for what I did, and I want to make things better."

-- Youth offender participating in Restorative Conferencing

"By having a chance to be part of the dialogue, I got my life back and took back the power that was taken from me."

-- Participating victim of a crime

"I was glad to see my child step up to the plate and take full responsibility. I think it ended up teaching a life lesson that would not have happened otherwise."

--Parent of a youth offender

"Kids don't learn by being punished. They learn by doing the right thing. They learn by making things right."

--Teenage offender who became a restorative program volunteer

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Restorative Justice Conference Program

A program of Pine County
Attorney's Office and Pine
County Probation



*Serving Victims,
Youth Offenders, and
Community Members
who come together
to repair the harms
caused by a crime.*

What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice is a framework for addressing crimes and conflicts with an emphasis on repairing harms and broken relationships. By engaging and empowering offenders and victims of crime, it provides safe, constructive dialogue opportunities for people to rebuild trust and to create plans for reparation that satisfy everyone.

What is Restorative Conferencing?

One model that Pine County uses for resolving youth offenses is conferencing which allows victims, offenders and community members to come together, after preparation, for safe dialogue. All meetings are guided by two trained facilitators who ensure that conversations are respectful and outcomes are fair.

All meetings honor...

- Confidentiality
- Voluntary consent
- Consensual agreements

What can offenders expect?

Youth offenders can expect to have a preparation meeting with facilitators to tell their story and to learn how the process works. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Typical cases allow youth to:

- Talk about their own issues
- Learn about impacts to others
- Apologize to others
- Make amends to make things right

What can victims expect?

Most importantly, victims define their own needs and preferences and determine when and how they want to participate.

Typically, victims appreciate having:

- A menu of choices
- A voice in the process
- A restoration or compensation of losses
- A sense of trust restored
- A face put on the crime

Are there options to Conferencing?

When actual victims choose to not participate in a dialogue meeting, the following are all possible:

- Victim-Relay Conference
- Victim Surrogate Conference
- Community Member Conference
- Follow-up Support Circle

All of these include full restorative dialogue where offenders come to grips with the consequences of their actions and agree to plans for moving forward. They also engage community volunteers, and if you are ***interested in volunteering*** with the program or becoming a facilitator, contact information is on the back of this brochure.

When can this process happen?

- Diversion from court
- Mid-court pre-sentence
- Condition of court sentence
- Post-court (for serious cases that are only victim-initiated)