

CCJBH and Restorative Justice

Definition

Restorative Justice is a comprehensive philosophy of justice. Various forms of Restorative Justice have been practiced throughout history in cultures around the world. Restorative Justice offers a complete approach to addressing the needs of all affected parties: victims, offenders, and communities. Restorative Justice acknowledges that crime causes harm and injury to victims and their families, offenders and their families, and communities. The purpose of Restorative Justice is to engage all of the parties affected by crime in processes that work to hold the offenders accountable, repair the harm done to victims, build offender competencies, and engage communities in finding solutions to the problems associated with crime.

CCJBH endorses the concept of Restorative Justice as adopted by the Chief Probation Officer of California. Recognizing the role of juvenile justice is to concurrently support community safety and the best interest of justice involved youth, CCJBH further asserts that the application of Restorative Justice should:

- Emphasize accountability for harmful acts.
- Include active participation of the youth, their families, victims, and the community.
- Support the development of empathy for others.
- Address the impact of trauma on the youth and those harmed, with a focus on healing.
- Address the underlying causes of delinquent behavior, and behavioral health issues.
- Provide support, interventions, and resources to address the needs of youth, their families, and living environment.
- Build and utilize connections and support networks in the community to promote long term positive outcomes for justice involved youth with behavioral health needs.