

Red Deer County



WHO ARE WE?

The Rural Red Deer Restorative Justice Program is a community run program using community justice forums to promote reconciliation, settlement or compromise.

Restorative Justice is a continuum of services that involve the person(s) harmed, wrongdoer and the community and incorporates the principles of respect, inclusiveness, accountability, reparation, restoration and community involvement.

The purpose is not to determine guilt or innocence. The goal is to address the harms done.

The process is voluntary to parties from start to finish.

Each community justice forum is conducted by two well-trained, volunteer facilitators.

Case confidentiality is maintained.

The program practice involves person(s) harmed, wrongdoers and communities.

The Rural Red Deer Restorative Justice Program is an active member of the Alberta Restorative Justice Association.

Website: www.arja.ca.

The website has information on programs in Alberta and a list of updated resources and research articles.

RURAL RED DEER RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM

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Referrals to the program come from the Blackfalds RCMP detachment, schools and community partners. The Rural Red Deer Restorative Justice Program is an initiative of the RCMP Blackfalds detachment P.A.C.

Volunteer facilitators are trained in Person(s) Harmed/Wrongdoer Mediation and Community Justice Forums.

RURAL RED DEER RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM

Restorative practices are not about punishment, but accountability & consequences.
- Violet Smith

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WHAT IS A RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY CIRCLE?

Once a referral is made, the coordinator assigned to the case number selects two facilitators, parties are contacted and a date, time and place for a pre-interview is determined.

(The role of the coordinator and facilitators is not to judge, only to help the process move forward and assist in clear and respectful communications.)

Pre-Interview

Case Facilitators meet separately with those involved in the case. Review of the program process, rules and case suitability is carried out.

Participants relate their experiences and expectations.

All concerns and questions should be addressed at the pre-interview. A date is chosen for the forum.

What happens during the forum?

Rules of the forum are reviewed with parties. Each participant, without interruption, is given an opportunity to talk respectfully about how the offense has impacted them and ways the harms may be addressed.

What is the outcome objective?

To reach an agreed upon written, signed contract on how the harm can be repaired, as much as possible.

The Coordinator conducts on-going follow-up on the wrongdoer's contract obligation status and involved parties' satisfaction rates.



GOALS OF THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM

Providing a high quality service to all participants in a restorative process - person(s) harmed, wrongdoers and members of the wider community.

Provide an effective, efficient alternate justice program.

Increase satisfaction among person(s) harmed, wrongdoers, referral agents and community.

Increase the level of empathy between person(s) harmed and wrongdoers.

Increase level of accountability with wrongdoers.

THE PRINCIPLES OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Focus on the harms that have been done, rather than the rules that have been broken.

Work towards restoration of person(s) harmed trust by empowering them and responding to their needs as they see them.

Provide opportunities for open dialog in a safe environment.

Encourage collaboration and reintegration of person(s) harmed and wrongdoer rather than coercion and isolation.

The Restorative Justice process changes the manner in which people deal with crime and conflict to a positive and transforming process for the community.

Restorative justice only works well when everyone takes part.

CONTACT US

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