



Restorative Responses to Harm or Crime (RRHC) Youth

Addressing the Impacts of Harm and Fostering Meaningful Accountability

Community Justice Initiatives
www.cjiwr.com

Guided by restorative justice principles, RRHC addresses conflict and crime by engaging youth who have caused harm, people who have been impacted, and the community.

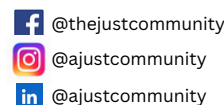


All processes are voluntary and confidential.

To learn more about RRHC, please contact our Service Coordinators at **519-744-6549 ext. 250**, or **RRHC@cjiwr.com**.

OR speak to a legal system official connected to a youth's case such as Victim Services, the Crown Attorney's office, police, duty counsel, your lawyer or probation officer.

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RRHC-youth accepts referrals from criminal legal system officials, police services, community-based organizations, and individuals impacted by incidents of harm or crime.

Individuals can be referred to RRHC at any stage of involvement with the criminal legal system, including:

Upstream

Responding to escalating behaviour restoratively before a criminal offence occurs.

Pre-Charge Diversion

Using restorative measures instead of a criminal charge.

Post-Charge Diversion


Addressing accountability through a restorative approach as an out-of-court sanction.

Pre-Resolution or Pre-Sentencing

Providing an opportunity for a restorative approach alongside the continuing court process.


Probation

Supporting individuals during probation to deepen learning and prevent future conflicts.




“Being able to talk to the other party made me aware of how the incident affected them. It made me realize I would not want to re-offend.”

-RRHC participant



Research by Public Safety Canada (2010) found that most restorative justice participants—both people harmed and people who caused harm—experienced improvements to their mental and physical health.



“Through this program, I learned how to deal with problems without escalating the conflict.”

-RRHC participant

Restorative Responses to Harm or Crime

When young people face punitive responses to harm or crime, they often encounter lasting barriers to education, employment, and overall well-being.

Canada’s youth legal system takes a different approach—one that prioritizes accountability and rehabilitation over punishment, emphasizing diversion, community-based solutions, and meaningful opportunities for growth.

RRHC-Youth is a restorative justice program that supports young people (ages 12-17) who have caused harm, those impacted and the wider community. It aims to help youth:

- Learn how to resolve conflict;
- Take responsibility for their actions;
- Build positive relationships.

To participate, an accused youth must be willing to:

- Accept responsibility for their actions that led to the charge;
- Meet with CJI facilitators to explore the impact of the incident;
- Take steps to address the needs of those harmed.

How RRHC-Youth Supports Participants

Trained facilitators support youth in discussing the incident, its impact, and meaningful ways to move forward, including agreements to address the needs of those harmed. Participants are empowered to make their own decisions throughout the process. If dialogue is not possible, alternative restorative options may be available.

For participants who **experienced** harm, potential benefits include:

- Sharing how they were impacted and feeling heard;
- Getting questions answered;
- Having a voice in how the harm can be repaired.

For participants who **caused** harm, potential benefits include:

- Understanding the impact of their actions;
- Making meaningful amends;
- The possibility of avoiding a criminal charge, having charges withdrawn, or having their sentence reduced.

Tailored Supports for Youth and Families

RRHC offers cross-program options to provide specialized support for individuals navigating conflict, harm, and justice processes.

Our **Identity-Based Harm** program provides space for healing when identity is a central element across conflict, crime, or harm. Through coaching, dialogue, and circle processes, facilitators use trauma-informed approaches and cultural humility to journey with diverse lived experiences.

Our **Conflict Coaching** program offers individualized support to help youth strengthen self-awareness, build confidence navigating difficult situations, and develop skills for effective conflict resolution.

Our **Elder Mediation Services (EMS)** program fosters intergenerational understanding in situations where an older adult has experienced harm from a youth. These restorative conversations help challenge ageism and promote empathy, offering meaningful opportunities for connection and resolution.