



www.warmlandrestorativejustice.org

Who we are:

- Cowichan Restorative Justice Society is a non-profit organization that has been in the Cowichan Valley for the past twelve years
- We are located at 205-394 Duncan Street in the Cowichan Professional Building
- We provide training for Community Justice Forums, Circle Dialogue, and have developed a program for local schools
- Our Caseworkers are trained to conduct structured, effective forums in a safe environment that prioritizes honesty, responsibility, and the dignity of all participants. Our facilitation team is supported by Certified leaders (using the RCMP Community Justice Forum Model). Our services are provided at no charge .

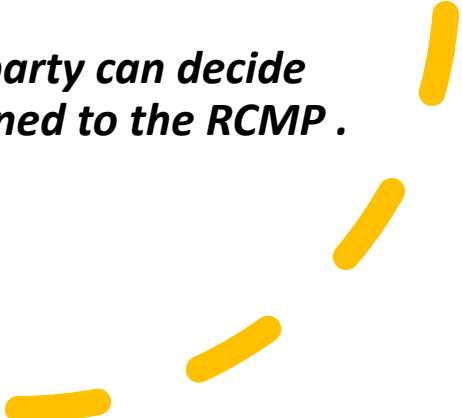
What is Restorative Justice?

- Restorative Justice (RJ) is a problem-solving approach to crime and community conflict.
- RJ Caseworkers help parties in conflict to understand the harm that has been done and how people have been affected, and to guide the process for Responsible Parties to take responsibility and make things right.

What a typical RJ case looks like:

- We receive a referral (RCMP, Crown Council, Schools, Businesses) and we determine whether it fits the criteria.
- Case Team reads the file and sets up Preliminary Intake Interviews with each person involved - Responsible Party and Affected Party. At this time each party is offered a Mentor to prepare them for the forum and provide support.
- A Community Justice Forum is conducted in a circle to deal with:
 - The harm that was done. Everyone will be given the chance to speak and ask questions.
 - Through discussion, a Resolution agreement is created and all parties sign it.
- When the Responsible Party completes the Resolution Agreement the file is closed and there is no criminal record.

This process is voluntary and at any time each party can decide not to take part. At that time the file is returned to the RCMP .



Why RJ vs Criminal Court?

- RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
 - Time – takes about 4 months
 - Police resources – Members spend less time in court
 - Reduces RCMP costs
 - Reduces reoffending
 - Business referrals benefit the community
- CRIMINAL COURT
 - Time – can take years
 - Police resources – Members attending court and not actively policing
 - Cost of overtime and administration
 - Recidivism more likely
 - Low accountability

Types of RJ Cases

- Theft
- Break and Enter
- Assault
- Mischief under \$5000
- Arson
- Theft Motor Vehicle/Joy-riding
- Cyber Bullying
- Harassment
- Vandalism
- Shoplifting






Benefits of Restorative Justice

- Business have a way to deal with chronic problems (Chamber of Commerce and DDBIA approved)
- Improved cost of policing
- Improved empathy and understanding
- Improved police and community relations
- Less costly to the community
- Affected Parties feel safer

Cowichan Restorative Justice Society Budget 2024

- Budget attached
 - Our projected budget expenses for 2024 = \$50,944.73
 - Funding from Community Accountability Program = \$4,000
 - Requesting funding from Municipality of North Cowichan RCMP budget = \$26,320
 - Request \$8,217 from City of Duncan RCMP budget
 - Grants not for operational costs
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Cowichan
Restorative
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QUESTIONS?

