

Restorative Philosophy at CJTS

Restorative Justice is a way of viewing justice that puts the emphasis on repairing harm caused by conflict and crime. In this approach crime is understood as a violation of people and relationships and a disruption of the peace of the community. It is not simply an offence against the state. Restorative justice is collaborative and inclusive. It involves the participation of victims, offenders and the community affected by the crime in finding solutions that seek to repair harm and promote harmony.

The underlying values of a restorative justice approach are based on respect for the dignity of everyone affected by the crime. Priority is given to addressing the human needs of participants and empowering them to communicate their thoughts and feelings in an open and honest way. The goal is to build understanding, to encourage accountability and to provide an opportunity for healing. A restorative justice process encourages the offender to take responsibility for their harmful behavior in a meaningful way, to gain insight into the causes and effects of that behavior on others, to change that behavior and to be accepted back into the community.

- Restorative practice can be used anywhere to prevent conflict, build relationships and repair harm by enabling people to communicate effectively and positively.
- Restorative practice can involve both a proactive approach to preventing harm and conflict and activities that repair harm where conflicts have already arisen.
- Restorative practice supports people to recognize that all of their activities affect others and that people are responsible for their choices and actions and can be held accountable for them. It enables people to reflect on how they interact with each other and consider how best to prevent harm and conflict.

CJTS Restorative Community Norms

Language will be supportive and “normalized” without the use of obscenities, sexualized comments or gestures, or derogatory slang language that is meant to insult, incite and/or criticize another person or their value system. The CJTS community expects all members to use “life language”, meaning language that is acceptable to the larger society. This language is polite, respectful and non-judgmental. It is language that is used in all components of society including schools, workplaces...This is the agreed upon language of the CJTS community and will be practiced and modeled by all.

How we **dress** is valued within the CJTS community and the greater community. Whether it's the young men or staff, appropriate dress is expected and modeled. Pants will be pulled up, hands out of your pants and maintained at waist level. This supports the dress values of society and is the accepted dress practice of the CJTS community.

Respect is given to all members of the CJTS community. Respect is not easily defined to meet everyone's understanding of respect. For the CJTS community, respect is thinking and acting in a positive way about yourself and others. Showing respect to someone means you act in a way that shows you care about their feelings and well-being. Showing respect for others include things like not calling people names, treating people with courtesy, caring enough about yourself that you don't do things you know can hurt you. Respect also means in today's society you don't interfere with other people's right to look, think, or act differently than you because you care about (respect) their feelings and well-being.