



To find a sexual violence support advocate and learn about other options, visit:

<https://youhavetherightco.org/>

- Upon completion of a Restorative Justice Circles training, from a previously incarcerated female...

"The first authentic healing I have experienced in my lifetime."

- After completion of 2 high impact dialogues with the young men who killed her 3 year old...

"I no longer think of my son dying in my arms, but I think of how much he loved to play, climb and eat candy."

- After meeting with her brother's best friend who was driving drunk and convicted of vehicular homicide...

"After 3 1/2 years, I was finally able to honor my brother. I had never been able to visit his grave until I had gone through restorative justice."



FREEDOM FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE

**COLORADO COALITION
AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT (CCASA)**
WWW.CCASA.ORG
INFO@CCASA.ORG

PO Box 40350
Denver, CO 80204
303.839.9999



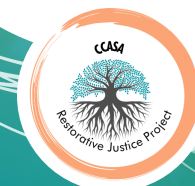
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FREEDOM FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE



**RESTORATIVE
JUSTICE &
Sexual
Violence**



The trauma of sexual violence can be a life-changing experience that impacts individuals, their family, and communities. Restorative justice (RJ) can be an option for some survivors, their community, and the person who caused harm to come together for healing and repair.

what is RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (RJ)?

- RJ is based on Indigenous practices and is not a specific program. It is a process meant for healing.
- RJ processes support healing and repair after harm happens. After a period of preparation, the person who was harmed, the person who harmed them, facilitators and support people sit in a circle together to discuss the impacts of the harm.
- RJ is appropriate only if everyone involved (survivors and the person who hurt them) want to participate. The whole process is confidential and voluntary, and you can change your mind at any time.
- The person who caused harm has to be willing to take accountability for the harm they did and want to work toward repair.
- RJ can be an option with or without reporting to police or working with the courts.
- RJ can give survivors a chance to be heard about their experience and the impact on their life and on the community, ask questions of the person who hurt them, and propose ideas on how the person who hurt them can work to repair the harm they caused.

WHAT DOES A RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

All restorative justice processes are voluntary and confidential. Anyone can change their mind whenever they like.

1. PREPARATION

- Survivors can ask to meet with trained and experienced facilitators to hear about the process and decide if it is right for them.
- If the survivor is interested in being part of a restorative process, the facilitators will contact the person who caused the harm to gauge interest and suitability. People who cause harm need to be able to take accountability to participate. The goal of RJ is to avoid causing any more harm to all involved.
- Facilitators will prepare and support the survivor and the person who caused the harm separately to make sure all participants are ready to come together. Facilitators will talk with everyone to figure out when everyone feels prepared and ready, making sure that the survivor is able to get their questions answered and their needs met.

2. CONFERENCE/DIALOGUE

- The day of the RJ dialogue/conference, everyone sits in a circle together, including trained community members who can help support the process. Both the person who caused harm and the survivor talk about the harm that happened and discuss the impact it has had.
- Survivors have the opportunity to ask questions of the person who hurt them, be heard by them and others, and can sometimes take part in coming up with ideas and setting a plan of what the person who caused harm can do to work to repair the harm they did.

BENEFITS OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

- Survivors may be able to get their questions answered.
- Survivors can express their feelings and have their experience validated.
- A restorative process can allow survivors to “change their story” from one of pain, fear, and anger to one of relief, more peace, and less anger.
- The person who caused the harm often gains a better understanding of the impact of their actions and can feel empathy for the person they hurt.
- Survivors have an option for healing that can be separate from the criminal legal system or in addition to.

TALK TO A TRAINED FACILITATOR

To search for someone to discuss an RJ facilitation process, visit the Restorative Justice State Council webpage:

<https://rjcolorado.org/find-rj-providers>

At the website, select the following to find a sexual violence RJ facilitator:

Step 1: Select county

Step 2: Under “facilitation Services” select “Hi-Impact Victim Offender Dialogue”

Step 3: Under “Type of Harm You Address” select “other”