

## What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative justice (RJ) is a set of principles that gives rise to practices that adhere to the idea that crime hurts victims, communities, and offenders. It centers the needs of people directly harmed and addresses root causes of harmful behavior. Restoration refers to repairing the harm done and rebuilding relationships in the community affected by crime.

## How does RJ benefit my community?

- Significant cost per case savings
- Reduces recidivism
- Restores sense of safety for victims
- Enhances public safety

RJ takes its roots from centuries of indigenous cultural traditions and peace-making practices. The field remains indebted to the Native people of North America and New Zealand for their foundational contributions.

### Finding solutions to crime that are:

- victim-centric
- offender-focused
- community-led

## To Volunteer, must be:

- 21+ years old
- Able to commit to one year of service
- Attend mandatory no-cost trainings
- Complete an application, background check, and interview

See [www.pcao.pima.gov/restorative-justice](http://www.pcao.pima.gov/restorative-justice) for more information, including next available training dates.

For more information and to request a volunteer application, contact:

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**Pima County  
Attorney**  
The People's Office



The Center  
for Community Mediation  
and Facilitation



**PIMA COUNTY**  
PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES



## Restorative Justice Program

Pima County Attorney's Office

A victim-centric, offender-focused,  
community-led response to crime.

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## Restorative Justice Program (RJP)

RJP is an adult diversion program that provides a community-driven solution as an alternative to incarceration for qualifying offenses. Using a facilitated dialogue process (RJ circle):

- Victims are given a voice and opportunity to tell their own story and have a role in deciding how justice will be achieved.
- Offenders are provided the opportunity to take responsibility and directly address harms done.
- Community participation (through volunteers) is essential to the collective decision-making of how to repair harm.

### Vision of RJP

Repair harm, reduce risk, restore community



Source: University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School



*RJP volunteers role-play an RJ circle. The process provides a space for those with a stake in a specific crime to communicate and address their related needs.*

## How RJP Works

- Step 1:** An eligible offender (responsible party) accepts responsibility for their actions, and both victim and responsible party voluntarily agree to participate. If—and only if—the victim of the crime consents, PCAO diverts the case to RJP.
- Step 2:** Both parties meet separately with case facilitators for pre-circle preparation.
- Step 3:** An RJ circle takes place, in which victim, responsible party, support people, and 2 volunteer community members come together with the help of 2 case facilitators. The process is designed to recognize the harm done, honor the needs and interests of those harmed, and develop appropriate responses to hold the responsible party accountable.
- Step 4:** Post-circle monitoring.
- Step 5:** Closing circle.
- Step 6:** The responsible party's charge is dismissed.

## RJP Needs Volunteers

### 2 ways to Volunteer:

**1. Facilitator/ co-facilitator:** A team of 2 volunteer facilitators directs the RJ circle and conducts pre-circle prepping with involved parties.

- **Role:** to create a safe space for open dialogue that includes respect, honesty, neutrality, and listening.

**2. Community member:** Community member volunteers are needed in every RJ circle.

- **Role:** to express the ripple effect that crime has on a community, thus highlighting to offenders the larger impact of their actions.



*Restorative Justice Program volunteers complete training by The Center for Community Mediation and Facilitation*