

# How will Restorative Justice work in Jamaica?

## What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice is a process whereby all the parties with a stake in a particular offence come together to resolve collectively how to deal with the aftermath of the offence.

It is a different way of thinking about crime and conflict.

Restorative Justice focuses on holding the offender accountable in a more meaningful way. It repairs the harm caused by the offence, helps to reintegrate the offender into the community and helps to achieve a sense of healing for both the victim and the community.

Restorative Justice involves three main parties:

- 1- **VICTIM**, or the individuals harmed
- 2- **OFFENDER**, or the individual causing the harm
- 3- **COMMUNITY**, the place where the harm was committed.

Restorative Justice Conferences and Circles are some of the tools used in Restorative Justice. A victim may meet with the offender face to face in a *Victim/Offender Conference*, or with the Offender and persons from the larger community in a *Family Group/Community Conference*.

A *Healing and Talking Circle* can also be held to focus on a common concern in order to aid in healing. A *Sentencing Circle* can also be used to arrive at a sentencing plan for an offender.

The Ministry of Justice will be responsible for the overall coordination and administration of RJ.

A National Advisory Board comprising government and non-government bodies will provide advice on strategic objectives of the Restorative Justice Programme.

Restorative Justice Steering Committee will work at the community level to oversee RJ locally. A Justice of the Peace will chair the Steering Committee.

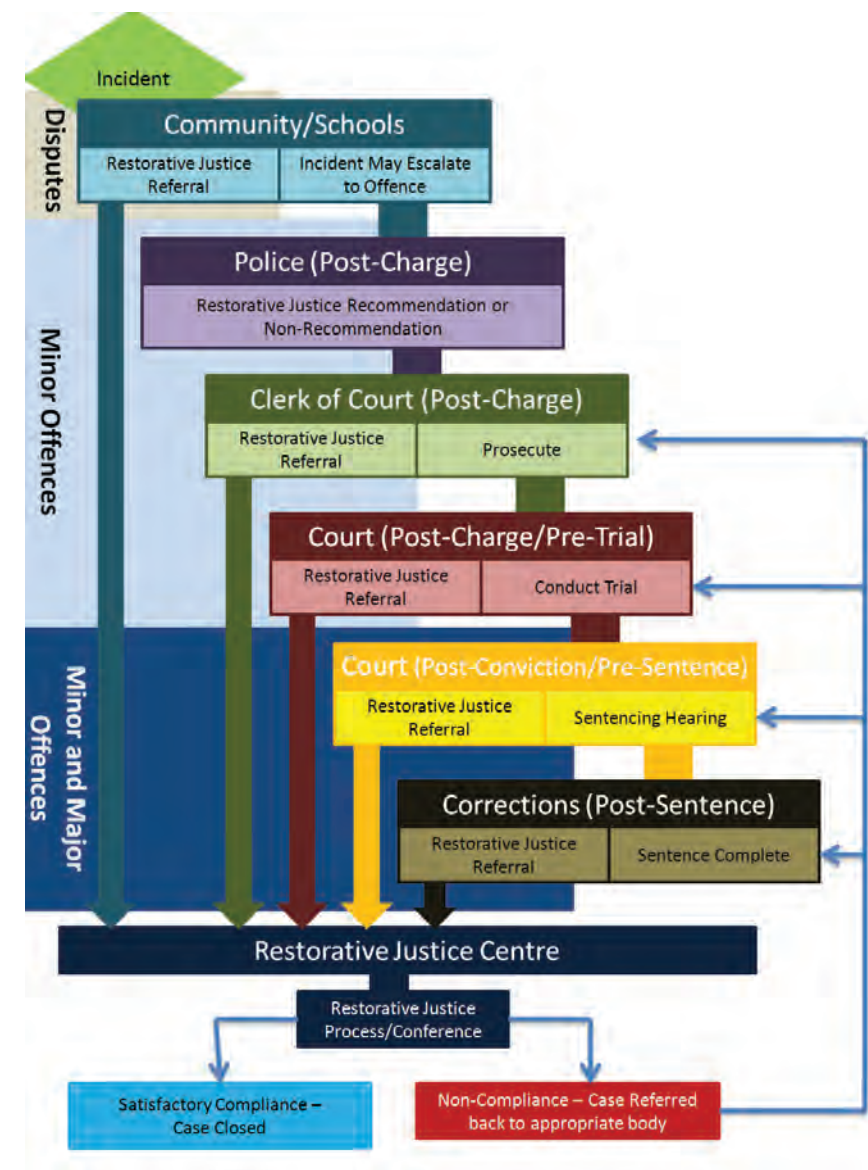
A Centre Manager will manage the daily operations of the Restorative Justice centres within the communities and will manage a register of trained RJ Facilitators.

RJ Facilitators will conduct RJ conferences and circles. Facilitators will be trained members of the community.

A National Restorative Justice Policy outlines the Protocols that will govern RJ.



## A Multi-tiered Approach...



# What are the benefits for the victim?

- Victim** Restorative Justice will provide you with the opportunity to:
- Express your feelings and ask questions
  - Have your feelings, concerns and suffering acknowledged
  - Reach some understanding of the offenders motivation for committing the offence
  - Say how the harm done by the offender might be repaired

- Offender** Crime hurts victims, communities and offenders. It creates an obligation to make amends. Restorative Justice gives offenders the opportunity to:
- Take responsibility for actions in a safe environment
  - Be an active participant in determining how you may begin to repair the harm done
  - Hear first hand how your behaviour has affected people and the community
  - Reduces Reoffending and assists in the rehabilitative process
  - Makes reintegration with the community easier.

- Community** Crime affects everyone. The entire community can work together to repair harm done and create safe communities. Restorative Justice gives the community a chance to:
- Take responsibility for, and actively participate in, achieving justice in your community
  - Focus on the causes of crime and do something about them
  - Support the victim and ensure there are oppportunities in the community for the offender to make amends
  - Reduce crime and violence in schools
  - Prevent problems from escalating in the community
  - Help repair relationships and bring closure to incidents of conflict

# Key values of Restorative Justice



*Accountability . Empowerment. Forgiveness  
Honesty. Hope. Humility. Participation. Reconciliation  
Interconnectedness. Reintegration. Respect.  
Responsibility. Relationships  
Restitution. Repair.  
Truthfulness*

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# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Justice that Heals !