

Victim-Centered Restorative Justice

Victim-Centered Restorative Justice, or Restorative Justice practices directly involving victims/survivors, is anchored in care and concern for the victim/survivor as the primary focus. It is essential that victims/survivors are informed and have choice, safety, and support when considering and participating in a Restorative Justice process. These processes involve the victim/survivor's direct or indirect contact with the person who caused harm. This approach includes:

- Empowering victim/survivors to make informed and voluntary decisions about whether, when, and how to participate;
- Supporting victim/survivors to identify their own needs and find their balance between self-empowerment and personal safety;
- Utilizing qualified facilitators with demonstrated expertise in the needs of crime victim/survivors (see [Colorado Standards of Practice](#));
- Assessing, maintaining, and supporting physical and emotional safety during all interactions;
- Being respectful of and sensitive to the needs and concerns of persons taking responsibility for the harm and for community members; and
- Creating space for all impacted parties to be successfully reintegrated back into their communities.

The following statutes, standards, principles, articles and publications help inform the practice of Restorative Justice in Colorado:

Colorado Revised Statutes

- ❖ Criminal Code 18-1-901 Definitions (3) (o.5) "Restorative justice practices" [link](#)
- ❖ Children's Code 19-2.5-102 Definitions (45) (a) "Restorative justice" [link](#)

Colorado Standards of Practice

- ❖ Restorative Justice Facilitator Code of Conduct and Standards of Training and Practice [link](#)
- ❖ Colorado Restorative Justice Council Recommended Guideline for Training in Restorative Practices [link](#)
- ❖ Essential Points of Restorative Justice Practices in Colorado [link](#)
- ❖ The 5 R's of Restorative Practice [link](#)



National Standards of Practice

- ❖ Victim-Centered Victim Offender Dialogue in Crimes of Severe Violence – 20 Essential Principles in Corrections-Based Victim Services [link](#)

Articles & Publications

- ❖ Serving Crime Victims Through Restorative Justice - A Resource Guide for Leaders and Practitioners by Catherine Bergen, Alan Edwards, Matthew Hartman, Jennifer Haslet, Aaron Lyons [link](#)
- ❖ Guiding Principles and Restorative Practices for Crime Victims and Survivors By Sandra Pavelka, Anne Symore [link](#)
- ❖ Restorative justice and prison - a report for governors by Rosie Olliver [link](#)
- ❖ Victim-Centered Restorative Justice: An Essential Distinction by Jon Wilson [link](#)
- ❖ Listening to Victims – A Critique of Restorative Justice Policy and Practice in the United States by Harry Mika, Mary Achilles, Ellen Halbert, Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz and Howard Zehr [link](#)

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