



A Formula for Healing

“Restorative justice seeks to examine the harmful impact of a crime and then determines what can be done to repair that harm while holding the person who caused it accountable for his or her actions. Accountability for the offender means accepting responsibility and acting to repair the harm done.”

Why it matters? A look into our current system of retributive justice versus restorative justice

Criminal justice	Restorative justice
Focus: offenders getting what they deserve (receiving karma for their wrongs)	Focus: The victims needs and the offender's responsibility to repair the harm done.
Crime is a violation of law and state	Crime is a violation of people and relationships
Violations are centered by offender guilt	Violations are centered by offender obligations
Justice requires a determination of blame, guilt, and impose some sort of pain or punishment, lack of focus on human dignity and worth	Justice involves the victims, the offenders and the community members in hopes of healing/ mending the wrongs, focus on human dignity and worth
Questions of Criminal Justice: 1. What laws have been broken? 2. Who broke the law? 3. What do they deserve for their punishment?	Questions of Restorative Justice: 1. Who has been hurt? 2. What are their needs? 3. Whose obligation are these to respond to the hurt caused?



How Restorative Justice Can Mend Addiction Centered Crimes

This case study examines Gabe Stewart, a native man from an American indigenous community known as Penobscot Nation in Maine. This case study is used to show how restorative justice can be helpful in instances of crimes related to addiction and why it can begin the healing process of intergenerational traumas associated with it.

The offense:

Gabe Stewart was charged with stealing money from his family due to an opioids. Due to growing substance abuse in native communities related to intergenerational trauma, The injustice was reframed to be addiction within the community

The Restoration of Justice:

Gabe was put through a series of court-ordered tribal traditions and cultural practices organized to help cure the addiction and guide the addict to a full recovery.



References
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