

Restorative Justice

- Help to settle conflict to the satisfaction of the **parties involved**
- Victim-offender mediation is one such program
 - Brings together victims, wrongdoers, and trained facilitators.
 - Conflicts are discussed, strategies and schedules for reparations are devised and follow-ups and monitoring are arranged.
 - All occurs in a controlled environment

- The process of restorative justice helps offenders learn to accept full responsibility for their actions
- A goal of RJ is based on establishing a respectful relationship among all parties.
- This in turn will help offenders to be reintegrated, or restored, into their communities.



- All RJ initiatives share three core principles:
 1. Crime violates a relationship among victims, offenders, and the community
 2. Responses to crime should encourage the active participation of victim, offender and community
 3. A consensus approach to justice is the most effective response to crime.

“It is better to let nine guilty persons free, than to convict one innocent man”

- Thoughts?

Wrongful Convictions

- When an innocent person is wrongfully convicted, it is a double failure:
 - The innocent individual is wronged
 - A guilty person goes free
- Wrongful convictions are usually the product of problems with the system.
 - A “tunnel vision” occurs with investigators when suspects are identified
 - Police can obtain and manipulate evidence to prove presumed guilt

A classical pattern exists to wrongful convictions:

1. A heinous crime, unsolved crime that pits an unpopular or minority accused,
2. Assisted by inadequate defence,
3. Against a determined prosecution,
4. Seeking a conviction to resolve community concern.