

Traditional/ Punitive Justice	Restorative Justice
Laws or Rules are broken.	People and relationships are harmed.
Crime is an individual act with individual responsibility.	Crime has both individual and social (community/society) dimensions of responsibility.
“Justice” focuses on establishing guilt.	“Justice” identifies needs and responsibilities.
Accountability = punishment	Accountability = understanding impact and repairing harm
“Victims” are peripheral (not directly involved) to the process.	“Harmed parties” and the community are central to the process.
“Offender” is defined by deficits (what they lack).	“Responsible party” is defined by capacity for repairing harm, and preventing future harm.
Focus on what already happened: establishing blame or guilt (e.g. did they do it? Are they guilty?)	Focus on the future: problem solving, obligations, repairing harm (what should be done?)