



## Mission

Our mission is to cultivate peace and healing through human connection. We do this with restorative practices and nonviolent communication.

## What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice (RJ) is a voluntary process that promotes accountability and healing. The RJ process includes a free, safe, and facilitated conversation among the remorseful person and the impacted parties.

## RJ asks:

1. What happened?
2. What are the root causes?
3. Who has been impacted and how?
4. What can be done to repair the harm?

## ✓ Benefits of RJ:

- **For those harmed:** Provides a voice in the process, promotes healing, and offers a sense of closure.
- **For those responsible:** Encourages accountability, personal growth, and the opportunity to make amends.
- **For the community:** Strengthens community ties, reduces recidivism, and helps reintegrate individuals back into the community.

## How does Restorative Justice work?

1. **Referral:** Cases are referred to our program by community members, community agencies or organizations, and the State Attorney and Public Defenders.
2. **Preparation:** All parties are prepared individually to ensure they are ready for the RJ process.
3. **Facilitated Meetings:** In a safe and structured setting, those harmed and those responsible engage in a facilitated dialogue with program staff to discuss the harm, its impact, and ways to make amends.
4. **Agreement:** Together, participants develop an agreement that outlines steps to repair the harm and rebuild trust.



### RJ Referral Form

Think you or someone you know might be eligible for RJ Services? Scan the QR code to fill out our RJ Referral Form.

 **(850) 558-1883**

 **Office@connectionfirst.org**

 **www.connectionfirst.org**

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: A COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH TO CONFLICT RESOLUTION



### Standard Case Criteria:

- The person responsible for harm must be **18 or older** at the time of referral.
- We prioritize cases in Leon County, but we accept referrals from surrounding counties as well.
- We accept open criminal case referrals jointly referred by the State Attorney and Public Defenders' offices.
- Community harm cases that are non-criminal are also eligible for referral—this applies to you!

## Examples of Eligible Cases

### Neighbor Disputes

Preventing conflicts from escalating into law enforcement involvement.

### Community Tensions


Facilitating conversations about shared space, noise concerns, and misunderstandings.

### Property Dispute

Addressing conflicts between neighborhood residents and individuals outside the community.

Scan QR code to Make a Referral



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### Know a Teen Who Could Benefit?

For individuals under 18, Connection First collaborates with Community Connections, based at the Palmer Munroe Teen Center. This restorative program equips teens with empathetic communication and conflict de-escalation skills.

Interested in learning more about Community Connections?

Contact Program Coordinator **Julya Denholm DeMaria** at

 [Julya.DeMaria@talgov.com](mailto:Julya.DeMaria@talgov.com)

