



How Can Our VSU Help Survivors of Crime?

The California Department of Justice Victims’ Services Unit (VSU) is dedicated to serving and empowering victims/ survivors and their families, by connecting them with relevant and tailored resources.

In accordance with AB 60, the California Department of Justice updated its Marsy’s Rights and Resource card to provide information about restorative justice.

Resources

VSU publications for victims and support agencies include:

- Victims’ Services Brochure
- Marsy’s Card
- Native American Marsy’s Card
- Appeals & Victim’s Rights
- Sexual Assault Survivor’s Guide

These materials and more information about VSU are available in print and online at: oag.ca.gov/victimservices/resources



The VSU can assist victims of crime with information and resources on restorative justice programs and victims’ rights under Marsy’s Law. Call or write us at:

California Department of Justice Victims’ Services Unit

✉ 1300 I Street
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 95814

☎ (877) 433-9069 (Toll-free)

💻 oag.ca.gov/victimservices/contact

For up-to-date restorative justice resources,
please visit our webpage

OAG.CA.GOV/VICTIMSERVICES/AB60



C A L I F O R N I A
DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE
V I C T I M S ’ S E R V I C E S U N I T

Restorative Justice
Assembly Bill (AB) 60



What is AB 60?

- Assembly Bill (AB) 60, signed into law in October 2023, gives a crime victim/survivor the right to be notified about the availability of community-based restorative justice programs and processes as early and as often as possible.
- Restorative justice programs can be based in the community, county jails, juvenile detention facilities, and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).
- Participation in restorative justice programs or processes is voluntary for all parties.

What is Restorative Justice?

- Restorative justice is a process that attempts to repair the harm caused by an individual or group.
- The process may involve the victim/survivor sharing the impact of the harm that was caused with the person that caused the harm, and asking that person questions.
- It can encourage accountability from the individual(s) that caused harm.
- Restorative justice is a community-based practice rooted in and developed from indigenous practices.

What Does Restorative Justice Look Like?

There are various restorative justice practices. The following are some examples that may be available:

Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD)

This process involves a trained and neutral mediator that facilitates a voluntary and confidential meeting between the victim/survivor and the person(s) who caused harm. During this process the victim/survivor can share the impact of the crime, ask questions, and engage in dialogue with the person(s) that caused harm.

Healing Circles

This is a structured and facilitated process that encourages group dialogue. It can involve the victim/survivor sharing their story and impact of the harm with a group of other survivors and community members. The outcome can be finding support, building community, and creating group solutions to the issues at hand.

Victim Impact Panel (VIP) or Surrogate Dialogue

This is a structured and facilitated process where survivors volunteer to share the impact of the harm with a group of people who have caused harm and have been convicted of a crime. The panel aims to encourage changes in behavior to prevent future harm, understand the impact of their actions, and cultivate empathy.

When does Restorative Justice Happen?

- Restorative justice usually happens before criminal charges are filed or post-conviction.
- Restorative justice may not be available to you during the pretrial or trial phase of your case.

What to Look for in a Restorative Justice Program

Participation in a restorative justice program is voluntary, confidential, free of charge and victim centered. If you are interested in a restorative justice program, here are some things to look for when deciding if it is right for you:

- Services are survivor centered and trauma informed
- Procedures and practices are in place to help reduce or prevent re-traumatization
- Support is provided throughout the process, such as consistent communication and check-ins
- Procedures to ensure physical and emotional safety for all involved
- Dignity and respect for everyone involved
- Trained staff to support and facilitate dialogue
- Ability to change your mind and end your participation at any time
- Services are confidential and free of cost

Additionally, if you choose to meet an incarcerated individual(s) who caused the harm, inquire if the agency will cover expenses for travel.

How to Find a Restorative Justice Program in Your Area

For help finding a Restorative Justice program in your area, please contact VSU by phone at (877) 433-9069 or online at oag.ca.gov/victimservices/contact.

