



Retributive vs. Restorative Justice

| Retributive | Restorative |
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| Crime is an act against the state and its laws. | Crime is an act against individuals and the community. |
| The state controls crime. | Crime control lies primarily within the community. |
| Accountability is punishment. | Accountability is taking responsibility and repairing harm. |
| The justice process is adversarial. | The justice process involves all voices in dialogue to negotiate reparation to victim and community. |
| Victims are peripheral to the process. | Victims are central to the process. |
| Crime and misbehavior define the offender's personal deficits. | Taking responsibility and repairing harm defines the offender's capacity. |
| The justice process focuses on shaming, blaming, and establishing guilt. | The justice process focuses on understanding and resolving problems, accepting accountability, and preventing problems in future. |
| The goal is to punish crime by inflicting pain and isolation from the community. | The goal is to restore and reconcile by making restitution and repairing harm. |
| Threat of punishment is an effective deterrent, and punishment will improve the offender's behavior. | Threats and punishments by themselves are more likely to produce anti-social attitudes and further disrupt community relationships. |
| State professionals represent the community in the legal process. | The community represent themselves in facilitating the restorative process. |
| The process is dominated those not directly impacted by the offense. | The process involves those who have been directly harmed by the offender or are otherwise involved in the situations. |
| Traditional Justice aims to hurt. | Restorative Justice aims to heal. |