



## Equipping People with the Skills to Change their Future



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- California State Legislature
- California's Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC)
- US Department of Justice

### Partners

#### San Joaquin County Agencies:

- District Attorney's Office
- Victim and Witness Services
- Public Defender's Office
- Behavioral Health Services
- Probation Department

#### Community Based Agencies

- Victor Community Support Services
- Mary Magdalene Community Services
- Pioneering Restoration and Elevating Voices of Advocacy, Idealism and Leadership (PREVAIL)



### Want to learn more?

#### Contact Us:

Keiland Henderson  
 Restorative Justice Program Coordinator  
 Affiliated with Mary Magdalene Community Services  
 20 N. Sutter St. Suite 300  
 Stockton, CA 95202  
[Keiland.Henderson@sjcda.org](mailto:Keiland.Henderson@sjcda.org)

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# PNCC RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

## STEPS to SUCCESS



# PNCC-RJ

Project Navigate  
 Constructive Change  
 Restorative Justice Program

## STEPS TO SUCCESS:

# WHAT IS THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM?

The PNCC-RJ program helps people repair the harm caused by violence in situations where criminal charges have been filed.

Cases typically involve family members or intimate partners where the injuries are not severe.

The RJ approach emphasizes that we are more than the worst harm we have ever committed. The work focuses on identifying and addressing issues to prevent harm from re-occurring. We believe people are able to change and learn from their behaviors.

## GETTING STARTED

### STEP 1: REFERRAL

Defense attorneys work with their clients to determine if a restorative justice solution is appropriate. Defense attorneys review the pending criminal charges, criminal history, and willingness to participate before referring a case to the District Attorney's Office for review.

### STEP 2: ELIGIBILITY SCREENING

Eligibility screening is the review process within the District Attorney's Office to confirm that the charges and circumstances of the case meet the criteria for a restorative justice solution. Cases involving serious injuries, or where there is an ongoing pattern of violence, are not typically eligible.

### STEP 3: VICTIM CONSENT

The prosecutor will contact the affected party (victim) to explain the charges and the potential strategies to resolve the case. Victims must consent to the use of a restorative justice resolution, however victim participation is optional, and they can agree that a (surrogate) can participate on their behalf.

### STEP 4: PRE-MEETING

PNCC-RJ staff will evaluate candidates to determine readiness and willingness to participate in RJ. The evaluation includes an assessment of strengths and needs and a discussion about the individual's own goals and objectives.

Referred parties (defendants) are assisted by Mary Magdalene Community Services staff. Affected Parties (victims) are assisted by the PREVIAL (formerly Women Center Youth and Family Services).

### STEP 5: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE DIALOGUE

The RJ dialogue is an opportunity for program participants (defendants) to acknowledge their actions and behaviors and to discuss the impact of the harm on the victim.

Parties talk about what happened, discuss accountability for the harm caused, and how to move forward from the harm.

### STEP 6: AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE

Once program goals and objectives are set, the final agreement to participate is created and communicated with prosecutors, defense attorneys, and the courts. A plea must be given in court to participate in the PNCC-RJ program.

## PROGRAM STARTS

### STEP 7: PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Participant Agreements outline the activities and steps the defendant will take to fix their mistakes. Program activities typically last at least 6 months. Depending on the agreement, case plans may include but are not limited to:

- Domestic Violence Training
- Substance Use Recovery
- Job Development & Education
- Problem Solving and Decision Making Classes
- Anger Management Classes
- Individual and Family Counseling
- Restitution and Restorative Justice Activities
- Weekly/Bi-Weekly Check-Ins with Agreement Monitor

### STEP 8: CASE MONITORING

Restorative justice case managers work with participants and help them complete the terms of their agreement. Most participants will be required to check in with their case managers once or twice a week to review their progress.

### STEP 9: GRADUATION

Upon completion, a ceremonial graduation is held in Court - all involved parties and family are invited. Participants are acknowledged for their efforts and presented with a certificate of completion. Depending on the case, charges may be dismissed or reduced.

Aftercare programming includes follow-up and support as identified and requested.