

Restorative Justice Mediation is based on the philosophy and practice of restorative justice which is concerned about the victim, the offender, and the community.

The volunteer mediator comes from outside the system and does not hold authority in the school system. Their role is to be an objective third party. The mediator acts as a facilitator to have individuals involved discuss the issues at the same table and make their own decisions.

The mediation conference acknowledges the injustice or harm that has occurred, makes things as right as possible, and discusses lessons learned for the future.

It focuses on the harm done to people and relationships. It emphasizes that wrongs or harms result in consequences and accountability. It is about healing of relationships.

Testimonials

- Mediator was very good at getting to the heart of the problem. She was helpful with my daughter and son both in looking at different options.
- Rules were established, and referral to additional resources and services were accomplished.
- Realized there were more issues with sons overall self esteem and helped in opening a positive line of communication.
- I was able to understand that were different programs to help you out when you need the help & other people to talk to than just people in your family.
- It was helpful to talk and find underlying problems that haven't been addressed.
- It allowed me to meet the person I harmed and his mother to see how he feels.
- I learned to make my own decisions and not to listen to other people.
- It was helpful because we got a concrete, very specific game plan.

**Restorative
Justice asks the
question:
Who has been hurt?**

**What are their
needs?
Whose obligations
are these?**

**For further information,
contact your school or
contact
juvenile.rj@earthlink.net**

**Restorative
Solutions
For
Fayette
County
Middle
Schools**

Follow Up

Restorative Solutions

Mediation Addresses Conflicts Usually After Consequences Have Been Handled by the School.

If participants to the mediation come to an agreement on how the situation can be resolved, a written contract is developed by the participants and the outcomes of this contract can be submitted to the school. If there is further follow up that is needed, the mediator will follow up with the school.

The student and parents decide if they voluntarily want to have a mediation to address issues to do with bullying or serious peer conflicts, cyber bullying, teacher-student, family or neighborhood conflicts brought into the school, beyond control of the school and other kinds of issues.

Based on the wishes of the participants, a school representative can be present or not present.

When relationships are restored, it makes for an safer and improved school environment.

What are the benefits of Restorative Justice Mediation?

Mediation can take time to get at the causes of the conflict or harm.

Parents or guardians, the student, school representatives, and others can come up with their own solutions to the issues by:

- Retaining control of the outcome
- Insuring a confidential process
- Building communication skills
- Clarifying the issues
- Being accountable
- Being non-judgmental
- Restoring relationships
- Developing creative solutions
- Telling their story and being heard
- Experiencing empathy
- Learning about new resources