

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (RJ)

### Restorative Justice

Is a way to safely address a conflict and respond to a crime. RJ focuses on the needs of the people directly affected by harmful behavior that results in damaged relationships.

Individuals referred to the CRC by a Dane County partner agency, including both victims and respondents (who acknowledge responsibility for their actions), can choose to participate in the voluntary and confidential process to respond to the harm experienced as the result of the underlying incident.

The goals of restorative justice in responding to criminal and other harmful behavior is to: collectively and effectively address the harm done to people and the broader community, reduce the risk of re-offense by the respondent, and repair relationships.

### Community Restorative Court

818 W Badger Rd, Madison, WI 53713



**Finding Solutions to Crime that are:**

**Victim-Centered**

**Respondent-Focused**

**Community-Driven**

**For more information contact:**

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**Visit CRC at:**

[www.dcdhs.com/Children-Youth-and-Family/Community-Restorative-Court](http://www.dcdhs.com/Children-Youth-and-Family/Community-Restorative-Court)



REPAIR Harm

REDUCE Risk

REBUILD Relationships



# Dane County Community Restorative Court (CRC)

Do you want to consider an alternative to the traditional justice system that provides an effective way to resolve criminal and municipal cases?

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## What is the CRC Process?

Community Restorative Court (CRC) involves people working together to seek a resolution to the harm done to individuals and communities by criminal or other unlawful behavior. The CRC approach holds respondents accountable through the restorative justice process with any necessary reparative elements based on the specific situation. It also provides human services support where appropriate.

CRC staff meets with both the victim and respondent separately to discuss the incident. The respondent, victim, and trained community volunteers called Peacemakers then meet in the restorative justice process to create an agreement outlining steps the respondent will take to repair the harm.

## Who is eligible for CRC?

A person responsible for an offense (respondent) can be offered the opportunity to participate in the CRC if eligible and referred by a Dane County criminal justice partner. The respondent has to accept responsibility for their actions and be willing to participate in the restorative justice process.

The CRC is designed for young people 17-25 years old who have committed a misdemeanor crime or have received a municipal citation in Dane County.\* Some eligible misdemeanors and citations include:

- Battery
- Disorderly Conduct
- Obstructing an Officer
- Theft
- Criminal Damage to Property

\*The Dane County District Attorney's Office can refer any additional cases or case types it deems appropriate for the CRC process.

## Restorative Justice Grows out of Origins in Indigenous Knowledge

- **It deepens connections** among people through intentionally inclusive practices that cultivate empathy, trust, and mutual respect
- **It responds to harm** by engaging all affected parties—and others as needed—in creative, collaborative processes that enable meaningful accountability through acknowledging and repairing the harm
- **It advances equity** through a framework that is deeply rooted in the understanding that we are all interconnected and have inherent value as human beings

