

Beyond the Bench

“Restorative Justice- A Delinquency Justice Model That Works! ”

Community Justice Conferencing

SPEAKERS/PANELISTS

HON. DAVID A. GOTTLIEB, PRESIDING JUDGE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY COURT (559) 457-6380
 RUDY CARRILLO, CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY JUV. DELINQUENCY DIV. (559) 600-6100
 CRAIG DOWNING, PROBATION SERVICES MANAGER (559) 600-4750
 NOELLE NIGHTINGALE, DIRECTOR CJC PROGRAM (559)455-9803
 ANTOINETTE TAILLAC, SUPERVISING ATTORNEY JUVENILE DIV. (PD) (559) 600-6155

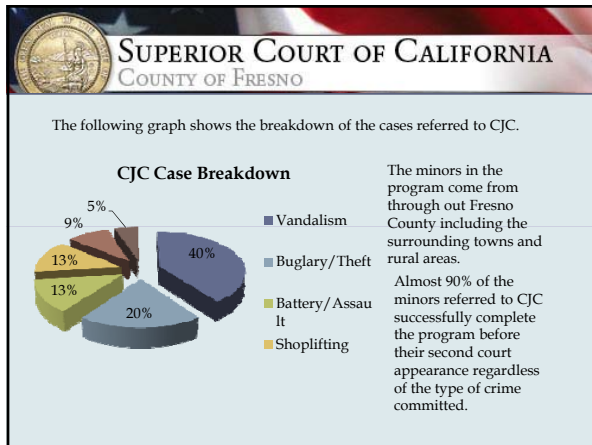
VORP and the Community Justice Conference

- ▣ The Community Justice Conference is a dynamic response to criminal activity in the community. The program provides the opportunity for victim, offender and the community to actively participate in the juvenile justice system. The program is solution driven with over 70% of victims actively participating in CJC.
- ▣ The program incorporates the VORP mediation process to provide services to both the offenders and the victims of crime.
- ▣ The program is a collaborative effort: The Court, Probation, the DA’s Office and Defense Counsel are active participants.

THE BASIC ELEMENTS

So, what does CJC do that is not already being done?

- ❑ It is not personality based it is systemic.
- ❑ Collaboration from all justice partners.
- ❑ The agreements/recommendations given to the judge is more than what he/she would have had without the system.
- ❑ The agreement/ recommendations most often become the court sentence.
- ❑ Often there is full compliance with the agreement prior to the hearing thereby decreasing court appearances.



Positive Impact Of CJC

- CJC coordinates a multifaceted intervention for each minor.
- The program forces the minor to address the spectrum of obligations caused by their delinquent behavior.
- This multimodal approach invites community involvement from other stakeholders in the minor's life.
- The CJC process facilitates mediation between the minors and other institutions that were affected by their behavior.

Community based solutions can reduce the workload for the legal system

CJC helps ease the burden on our Criminal Justice partners by diverting juveniles into supervised community programs. Thereby reducing the workload on the probation department. The decreased number of court proceedings also reduce the strain on the District Attorney and Public Defenders Office.

TYPICAL AGREEMENT

WHAT IS CJC?
CJC is a voluntary program for young people involved with the juvenile justice system that are willing to work with their victims towards a process of restoration. The goal of CJC is to help young people and their families "make things as right as possible" with their victims and the community. Minors work with CJC staff, their families and their victims to search for an agreement that is restorative for the victim, the minor and the community.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?
CJC is voluntary – that means that you decide if you want to be involved. If you choose to be involved you will participate in several meetings or conferences to discuss your offense. In some ways CJC is more difficult than a regular disposition, but it is more meaningful and rewarding because it is voluntary and will make a positive impact on your life and the lives of others.

DOES MY FAMILY NEED TO BE INVOLVED?
Yes – in order for you to be in the program a parent, relative or guardian need to participate in the program with you. In addition, you should invite 2-3 others, preferably extended family like uncles, aunts, grandparents, or you may choose to invite other support people like a pastor, teacher, coach, etc. It is important for your family and other support people to participate in the process.

HOW DOES CJC HELP YOU?
Participating in a CJC means that you will gain a better understanding of what you did wrong and how it affected the victim, your family, and others in the community. Participating also means that you will be involved in helping decide how to make things as right as possible and creating a plan for a positive future. Studies suggest that participating in CJC is very beneficial for juvenile participants and their families.

HOW DO I START?
If you want to be involved in CJC there are three steps:
 1. Accept Responsibility.
 2. Agree to Participate in the Meetings with your victim(s) and other Community Members.
 3. Constructively Participate in the Conference(s).
 4. Agree to allow CJC access to the Petition that was filed against you, the Police Reports that pertain to your case and Court Orders involving the Disposition imposed.

Please feel free at any time to ask questions about the program.
I have read or have had read to me and understand all of the above information and by signing this form I want to participate with the CJC.

VORP's Impact on the re-offense levels of juvenile participants

CJC participants had lower levels of re-offense than juveniles who committed similar crimes but did not participate in the program. Juveniles who did not participate in CJC re-offended at almost 6 times the rate of their CJC counterparts.

Year/Group	V.O.P. (%)	New Petitions (%)
2008-2009 Non CJC	~30.0	~25.0
2009-2010 Non CJC	~15.0	~20.0
2009-2010 CJC	~5.0	~5.0

Community Justice Conference

CJC has been responsible for collecting over \$11,511 dollars in victim restitution in the first two years of the program.

In the first two years of operation, CJC was able to help double the amount of restitution collected from juvenile offenders.

CJC participants pay restitution at almost 10 times the rate of average juvenile offenders.

Group	Amount (\$)
CJC	\$11,511
Probation	~\$1,200

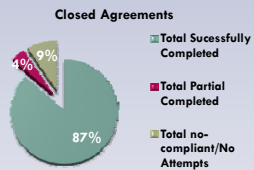
A.O.C Reviewed Statistics

CJC places a vested interest in helping the minors make amends to the victims of their crimes. This process is designed to teach the minors to assume responsibility for their actions and to increase victim satisfaction with the proceedings. A survey was given to participants during their involvement in CJC and the following graph compiles their average levels of satisfaction with different components of the CJC process. The last column shows the positive change in their perception of the other party following the mediation.



Agreement Status for 2 Years

Total agreements received:	365
Total agreements active/ In process:	173
Total closed agreements:	192



CJC Core Values

- ❑ CJC is about ensuring safety for all members of the community.
- ❑ CJC is about accountability; making and following up on agreements.
- ❑ CJC is about being treated fairly and with respect for participants privacy and dignity.
- ❑ CJC is about being heard and having a voice in the judicial process.
- ❑ CJC is about trust; participants must make and keep agreements.
- ❑ CJC is about reconciliation and peace; participants are to move away from hate and create "right relationships".

How It Works!



For additional information please contact:

Victim Offender Reconciliation Program
of the Central Valley, Inc.
4882 E. Townsend Ave., Fresno, CA 93727
(559) 455-9803 Fax: (559) 252-4800
<http://VORP.org>
