

<b>GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE</b>	Transmittal # 12-12	Policy # 14.1
Applicability: { } All DJJ Staff {x} Administration { } Community Services { } Secure Facilities	Related Standards & References:	
Chapter 14: BALANCED AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE	Effective Date: 6/15/12 Scheduled Review Date: 6/15/14 APPROVED:	
Subject: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE		
Attachments: None.		

## I. POLICY:

The Department of Juvenile Justice has a philosophical framework of balanced and restorative justice. As such, the Department shall utilize balanced and restorative justice practices to protect the public, to hold youth accountable, to provide opportunities for youth to develop new competencies, to form community collaborations, and to build or repair relationships between victims, communities and youth.

## II. DEFINITIONS:

**Accountability:** Accepting responsibility and acting to repair the harm done.

**Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ):** A philosophy based on a set of principles to balance the needs of victims, communities, and offenders and to emphasize accountability, competency development and community safety.

**Impact of Crime Class:** An educational program for youth to raise their awareness about the impact of their crime(s) on victim(s) in order to increase their level of accountability.

**Letter of Apology:** A written communication to the crime victim and/or the community in which the youth accurately describes the behavior and accepts full responsibility for the actions.

**Restitution:** Any property, lump sum, periodic payment, or services ordered by a juvenile court as reparation for the loss caused to another.

**Restorative Community Service:** Work performed by a youth for the benefit of the community as a form of repayment or repair for damages caused by the youth's conduct and delinquency.

**Restorative Group Conferencing:** A face to face meeting involving victims and their supporters, offenders and their families and other community members impacted by a crime or harmful act. The goal of a restorative group conference is to hold offenders directly accountable to the victims and the community they harmed. The conference determines how

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the offender will repair the harm and results in a written agreement that documents the conference outcomes and actions to be completed.

**Victim:** (1) A person against whom a crime has been perpetrated. (2) A parent, guardian or custodian of a crime victim who is a minor or a legally incapacitated person, except where that person is in custody for an offense or is the defendant. (3) In the event of the death of the crime victim, the following relatives will qualify as the victim, except where the relative is either in custody for an offense or the defendant: spouse; adult child if there is no spouse; a parent if there is no spouse or adult child; a sibling if there is no spouse, adult child or parent; a grandparent if there is no spouse, adult child, parent or sibling.

**Victim Impact Panel (VIP):** A group of 3 or more people, led by a trained facilitator, who express their feelings and discuss their experiences as a victim of crime without blame or judgment.

**Youth:** Youth committed to and/or under the supervision of the Department of Juvenile Justice. Youth may be in a DJJ facility, on site at a DJJ office, being transported by DJJ staff (personal/state vehicle), in the presence of DJJ staff while performing community service or other activities, or receiving community-based services from DJJ.

### III. PROCEDURES:

- A. The Department of Juvenile Justice will design accountability measures to ensure victim restoration. These measures may include, but not be limited to:
- Restitution (See DJJ 14.10, Victims Rights and Services);
  - Restorative community service;
  - Impact of Crime classes;
  - Restorative group conferencing;
  - Victim-youth dialogue;
  - Youth apology letters; and
  - Victim impact panels.
- B. Competency development will provide youth with the knowledge and skills to allow them to live productively, pro-socially and lawfully in their communities. Competency development will include, but not be limited to:
- Education;
  - Behavioral health treatment;
  - Evidence based practices;
  - Independent living skills.

### IV. LOCAL OPERATING PROCEDURES REQUIRED: YES