



## CVCJ Restorative Community Member

Application can be found [here](#)...read this document first please. 😊

A CVCJ “Restorative Community Member” is a role in the Restorative Justice conference for two main reasons:

- 1) To ensure a voice for safety, repair and healing when the harmed person declines to participate directly in the conference.
- 2) To involve the community in the conference because we know that harm has ripple effects outside of just the two primary people involved.

There are three different roles for Restorative Community Member Volunteers: Representative, Surrogate, and Community Voice.

### CVCJ Restorative Community Member Role Options:

- 1) Representative - A person who speaks directly with the harmed person and sits in for them at the conference so that the harmed person’s impacts, feelings and needs can be represented without their presence.
- 2) Surrogate - A person who has experienced or been responsible for a similar harm who can share from their experience, with an eye for safety, repair and healing in this case.
  - a) Ex: Brother of a person killed by a drunk driver participates in a DUI case.
  - b) Ex: Business owner who has dealt with break-ins participates in a business robbery case.
  - c) Ex: Mother of someone who has committed assault and battery participates in A&B case.
  - d) Ex: Someone who served jail time for a felony hit and run participates in a felony reckless driving case.
- 3) Community Voice - A member of the community who can speak to how harms like this affect the community as a whole. This person is not directly affected by the harm, and has not experienced a similar harm in their life.
  - a) Ex: Person who is in long-term recovery from alcohol-use disorder participates in a DUI case.
  - b) Ex: Business owner who has never experienced vandalism participates in vandalism against a business case.

### Which role will be chosen for each case?

The role that is chosen for a particular case depends on the harmed person’s engagement, the needs of the participants, and the available pool of Restorative Community Members.

For example:

- If the harmed person is willing to share their story to be passed on to the responsible person, we'll engage a Representative.
- If the harmed person does not wish to engage with a Representative, then a Surrogate with applicable experiences will be engaged.
- If there is no RC Member who has a similar experience to the harmed person, then a Surrogate can't be used and CVCJ would engage a Community Voice.
- If available & appropriate, facilitators might suggest that multiple roles are present at the conference, for example, a Representative as well as a Community Voice.

### What are the main responsibilities of a RC Member?

- 1) **Training:** Attend initial 3 hour training, and potentially twice a year professional development opportunities to total no more than 10 hours per year.
- 2) **Groundwork and conference:** For each case, you'll attend 1-2 groundwork meetings with facilitators (1-2 hours each) and then the conference with the responsible person (1.5-3 hours).
- 3) **Engage with the process and with the responsible person with compassion, and with all CVCJ values in mind:**
  - a) Dignity
  - b) Honesty
  - c) Interconnection
  - d) Action
  - e) Healing
- 4) **Be prompt in communication; show up to meetings on time.** This incident has likely been traumatic for both the responsible and harmed persons. Everyone surrounding their restorative process needs to respect that by showing up when we say we will and not slowing down the process in a way that is unhealthy to the participants.
- 5) **Play an active part in the formation of the agreement.** RC Members put themselves into the shoes of all participants, centering the needs of the harmed person, the future safety of the community, and the healing of the responsible person. At the joint conference with the responsible person, we will use a strengths-based approach for formulating a realistic agreement. By strengths-based, we mean that whenever possible, the agreement will allow the responsible person to engage in meaningful actions that align with their skills and interests.
- 6) **Be mindful of and open with one's own personal experience and boundaries.** We ask RC Members to be vulnerable about their own experiences of harm in order to connect with and provide insight to participants. RC Members need to be mindful of their own trauma history, and current trauma stressors and symptoms. While serving as an RC can be part of your own healing process, RC Members need to be stable and grounded enough to center the participants.

Application can be found [here](#)