



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important to Pre-conference with everyone who will be in the conference? Couldn't it just be the one(s) that caused the harm and the one that was harmed?

Leslye – We want everyone to know the purpose of this conference. An important part of the purpose is that those that are invited to support the one who caused the harm and the one who was harmed understand the value of listening to each one's story. Though we are foremostly interested in not harming the one that was harmed again, we are also interested in hearing the honest remorse of the one who caused the harm and supporting them as they ask for our forgiveness. As facilitators we wish to prepare all that will be sitting in this Conference to be present to support the responsibility that the one who harmed is taking by agreeing to be a part of this Conference. And we want to ensure that there is thoughtfulness of the one that was harmed. There are no sides, yet all are there to help our youth learn that a mistake is a mistake if you learn from it.

Serena – Pre-conferencing gives the facilitator a chance to develop rapport with each of the participants so that everyone feels safe. It also gives participants the knowledge of the RJC process and what they can expect in the meeting. It also lets the facilitator know if participants are ready for such a process and whether or not more time is needed between incident and circle.