

Conversations About ...

“ Establishing a Culture of Harmony in the Presence of Dissonance “

ABSTRACT

Healing the Harm to Secondary Victims of Crime Using Restorative Justice Principles.

This presentation/workshop proposes the use of restorative justice principles to promote healing of the residual effects of a nonviolent or violent crime to the secondary level of both the victim's family and the offender's family.

Victimization may include being stigmatized by such an event, being defined solely by an event which did not involve themselves, becoming isolated from friends and community, receiving overt attention from the media and municipal figures, recriminations, feelings of guilt and shame by the families and, accusations and animosity between both families.

The process objectives are to create a forum for each family separately, for airing and dealing with the family's emotions caused by this event; to express the difficulties caused by the event; to establish circles of support and reduction of the residual effects; to possibly address and reduce any animosity and any potential for revenge; and to investigate a path for both families to find or return to a calm between them.

This presentation/workshop benefits those professionals who work with or have experience with the families of either or both offenders and victims.

This experience can be at pre or post trial.

As well, practitioners of all levels of the Restorative Justice process will benefit.

Actual criminal cases at different levels are used to focus the discussion with details, photos and graphics, and handout worksheets.

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PRESENTER

James A Termotto, Sr.

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Conversations About at PORTSource Global Perspective, Rochester New York USA.

As an independent professional advisor, Jim consults with government and non-government agencies, institutions and firms on ethical and cultural issues related to their policy-making and strategic action plans. His contract work includes identifying the root and nature of specific social and civic problems, assessing the factors which promulgate those problems, proposing solutions that meet relative cultural differences, and creating ethical and lawful action plans for municipal bureaus, police services, institutions and, profit and nonprofit entities. Creating community peacemaking initiatives, and advocating for implementation of community restorative justice programs are significant parts of Jim's current world view. Working on these programs has resulted in his lecture series "Establishing a Culture of Harmony in the Presence of Dissonance," which presents and promotes an Ethics of Right-Relations for community diversity and peacemaking. These lectures are presented at professional conferences and universities in USA, Canada, UK, and across Europe. In addition to his lectures at local colleges, faith communities, and community groups, Jim is an ethics instructor at a continuing education institute, teaching courses in social and professional ethics, and restorative justice. He is a conflict resolution facilitator registered with Restorative Justice Society USA, and a Certified Restorative Justice Peacemaker with a Rochester New York Police Department Family Services program. There, he facilitates Restorative Justice resolutions to confrontations in the City of Rochester public school system. He is a North American member of Restorative Justice Council, and Conflict Research Society - both in United Kingdom; and, of National Conference on Restorative Justice USA. Jim holds Master degrees in ethics and critical thought from Queen's University, Kingston Ontario Canada, and Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Rochester New York USA.