

## Punitive Vs Restorative Solutions

The following chart has been excerpted from the work of well-known author and restorative justice pioneer Howard Zehr (*Restorative Justice* and *Family Group Conferences: New Zealand Style*, and from *The Little Book of Restorative Justice*.) It demonstrates differences in the potential outcomes of each approach:

*Comparison of Restorative and Adversarial Approaches to Justice*

<b>Retributive/Punitive Systems</b>	<b>Restorative Justice Systems</b>
Crime defined as violation of the state	Crime defined as violation of one person by another
Focus on establishing blame, or guilt	Focus on problem-solving and obligations
One social injury replaced by another	Focus on repair of social injury
Community on sideline, represented abstractly by state	Community as facilitator, actively seeking restoration
Action directed from state to offender (victim ignored; offender passive)	Victim and offender directly acknowledge the problem and collaborate on a solution (victim rights and needs recognized; offender encouraged to take responsibility)
Offender accountability defined as taking punishment	Offender accountability defined as understanding impact and taking action to make things right
Debt owed to state and society is abstract	Debt to victim and community is recognized and tangibly addressed
Stigma of crime irremovable	Stigma of crime removable through restorative action
No encouragement for repentance and forgiveness	Possibilities for repentance and forgiveness

*Three Different Questions*

<b>Criminal Justice</b>	<b>Restorative Justice</b>
What laws have been broken?	Who has been harmed?
Who did it?	What are their needs?
What do they deserve as punishment?	Whose obligations are these to repair the harm?