

THE RJCC PROCESS

A person is charged with a non-violent felony or misdemeanor.



Case is found eligible for the RJCC both the person charged and the person harmed agreed to participate; preliminary hearing is waived.



Pre-Circle: The Circle Keeper contacts all participants and prepares them for the peace circle.



Peace Circle: The Circle Keeper guides a confidential conversation about the harm caused and how to repair it.



All peace circle participants create and agree to the Repair of Harm Agreement. It submitted to the RJCC.



The person charged completes all of the requirements of the Repair of Agreement.



The case is dismissed.

RJCC Judges

Hon. Patricia S. Spratt
North Lawndale

Hon. Kristyna C. Ryan
Avondale

Hon. Donna L. Cooper
Englewood

Circuit Court of Cook County Restorative Justice Community Courts

North Lawndale
3605 West Fillmore Street
Chicago, Illinois 60624

Avondale
3647 West George Street
Chicago, Illinois 60618

Englewood
845 West 69th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60621

STATE OF ILLINOIS CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMUNITY COURT

A Restorative Approach to
Crime and Conflict

RJCC

North Lawndale, Chicago
Avondale, Chicago
Englewood, Chicago

Hon. Timothy C. Evans
Chief Judge

WHAT IS THE RJCC?

The Restorative Justice Community Courts (RJCC) are criminal courts in the North Lawndale, Avondale, and Englewood neighborhoods. Unlike most criminal courts, the RJCC practices **restorative justice**, which means it empowers the community to create solutions to repair the harm caused by crime and conflict. For every case, the RJCC brings together the person charged, the person harmed, and relevant community members in a **peace circle**, which is a confidential conversation guided by a trained member of the community. All members of the peace circle work together to write a **Repair of Harm Agreement**, which is a legal document containing the requirements deemed necessary to repair the harm from the crime. If the person charged completes all of the requirements of the Repair of Harm Agreement, the case will be dismissed.

WHO QUALIFIES?

For a case to be eligible, the person charged

1. must be 18-26 years old;
2. is charged with a non-violent felony or misdemeanor;
3. lives in RJCC neighborhood;
4. has a non-violent criminal history;
5. accepts responsibility for the harm caused;

and

6. the person charged and person harmed must both be willing to participate in the RJCC.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What Is Required of the Person Charged?

The person charged must be willing to accept responsibility for the harm caused. He or she must actively participate in all RJCC processes, including pre-circle meetings and one or more peace circles. The person charged must complete all of the requirements of the Repair of Harm Agreement that he or she helped create in the peace circle, which may include things such as community service, job training, counseling, or restitution (paying for damages).

How Will the Person Charged Benefit?

The person charged will benefit by having the case dismissed if he or she successfully fulfills the terms of the Repair of Harm Agreement. The person charged will have an opportunity to discuss and understand the causes and consequences of his or her actions through the peace circle process, as well as to repair the relationship with the person harmed and the community.

What Is Asked of the Person Harmed?

The person harmed is asked to actively participate in all RJCC processes, including pre-circle meetings and one or more peace circles.

How Will the Person Harmed Benefit?

The person harmed will have the opportunity to express how and why he or she was hurt by the crime and directly ask the

person charged for what is needed to heal from the incident.

How Is the Community Involved?

Members of the community are trained by the RJCC to participate in peace circles and ~~create~~ Repair of Harm Agreements. They also provide support to the person charged and ~~person~~ harmed.

How Will the Community Benefit?

- The RJCC aims to reduce crime and incarceration, restore relationships within the community and help young adults become positive role models in their neighborhood.
- Community residents will have the opportunity to work with the RJCC to determine the root causes of crime in the area and how they should be resolved.

What if the Person Charged Does Not Fulfill the RJCC Requirements?

1. If there are circumstances preventing the person charged from cooperating, additional support services will be offered.
2. If the person charged is unwilling to cooperate, the case will be transferred out of the RJCC to the appropriate felony or misdemeanor trial court.

How Long Does the Process Last?

The process typically lasts for 6 months to one year, depending on the case.