



## Steps Through the Process

- ✓ **Referral to Program**
  - Self, Court (Crown), Lawyers, NAPS, OPP, Other Programs (internal/external)
- ✓ **Intake and Evaluation Process**
  - Intake with client (offender)
  - Referral to Victim Witness Program – VW worker will reach out to Victim and provide support
- ✓ **Preparation (prior RJ Healing Circle)**
  - One on one with RJ SA/DV Worker
- ✓ **Restorative Justice Healing Circle**
  - Gather together as equals in a Circle to discuss incident. Each participant will have an opportunity to share their story
  - Plan/agreement developed
  - Referrals for healing (counselling, traditional teachings, Elders, community service hours, anger management or alternative PAR program)
- ✓ **Follow up & Exit Program**
  - Follow up Circle (if required) and ongoing support.
  - Summary Reports provided

**For more information please contact:**

**Restorative Justice, Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Program Manager**

Chantelle Johnson

Phone #: 1-807-622-1413 ext 7081

Email: [cjohnson@nanlegal.on.ca](mailto:cjohnson@nanlegal.on.ca)

[www.nanlegal.on.ca](http://www.nanlegal.on.ca)

**NAN HOPE Help Line: 1-844-NAN-HOPE  
(1-844-626-4673)**



**Administrative Office**  
1805 Arthur St E., Unit 100  
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 2R6  
1-800-465-5581

**Head Office**  
138B Mission Road  
Fort William FN, ON  
P7J 1K7



**Restorative Justice  
Sexual Assault &  
Domestic Violence  
Program**



## What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence, also called domestic abuse or intimate partner violence, can be defined as a pattern of behaviour in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power or control over your intimate partner. This included physical violence, mental, emotional, financial and sexual abuse.

This can occur to anyone regardless of gender, age, race, economic or social status. Any kind of abuse or violence is never okay. There's help for both the victim and the one causing harm (offender).

## What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is any unwanted act, action or activity with another individual that you did not receive their consent or permission.

## What is Consent?

Consent (giving permission) is the most important, NO means NO. Absolutely, no one can give your consent on your behalf. If you give your consent, you can change your mind and the individual must stop.

Types of sexual assault may include: sexual abuse, rape, incest, childhood sexual abuse, sexual harassment, degrading sexual imagery, indecent or sexualized exposure.

## Benefits of Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice is a voluntary process involving the person who has been harmed, the person who has caused the harm and their supporters. It is completed in a healing circle.

Utilizing a healing circle brings all involved together to talk about what happened, who was affected, and what can be done to help repair the harm. For this to be possible, the offender must be willing to take responsibility.

For sexual assault survivors, restorative justice may offer an alternative to the current system which focuses on punishment and not the repairing. The victim in the process is given a voice and an opportunity to contribute to their own healing journey.

When trauma persists within the community, it continues to grow. It affects everyone involved, which can include the community and promote fear and helplessness. Most times, the most common way to cope is by ignoring the trauma altogether.

## What can be done to help?

- Take time to learn about the affects of sexual assault & domestic violence.
- Create a safe place for individuals to talk about their experiences. Be supportive, help them access services in their communities.
- Raise awareness in schools, public, and society on the importance of accessing help for these issues. Reach out to RJ Staff for a presentation.
- Avoid judgment. It can be difficult to watch a survivor struggle with the effects of sexual assault and domestic violence for an extended period of time. Avoid phrases that suggest they're taking too long to recover.
- Get to know your resources or reach out your supports in your community (Band Council, Nurses, Social Workers, Front Line Workers)