

Neighborhood Accountability Boards

A **Neighborhood Accountability Board (NAB)** is a panel of trained local volunteers. When a person in court is referred to a NAB, a meeting is scheduled. At the meeting, the NAB members listen to what happened, discuss with the offender the harm involved, and then the whole group – including the offender – determines how to make things right, or as right as possible.

Neighborhood Accountability Boards begin by focusing on harm done – harm to the victim and harm to the community. Then the group considers how the offender can repair the harm using his or her own strengths and skills and how the offender can regain a trusted place in the community.

NABs require that persons who commit offenses acknowledge the harm done. Offenders have the chance to tell what happened, what was going through their mind and how they think about it now. They must consider the victim, why the victim was chosen, and what the impact may have been on the victim’s life. This allows offenders to take responsibility and express regret.

The NAB process is voluntary, but if the process is not completed, the case goes back to court. Successful completion of the NAB process results in dismissal of the case.

Restorative Justice says:

A crime tears a hole in the community.

Restorative Justice asks:

What harm was done?

Who was affected by the harm?

How can the harm be made right?

Restorative Justice promotes accountability for offenders, empowerment for victims, and healing for all affected by crime.



NABs in Adult Cases

Salina Municipal Court now sends some adult offenders to **Neighborhood Accountability Boards** as a diversion option. This process begins with filling out the Diversion Information and Application forms and paying to the court the non-refundable diversion fee of \$25 plus \$78 for court costs, the **\$100 NAB fee** and an additional \$200 court fee that can be paid or completed through community service.

The offender meets with a trained mediator to go over the process and the offense. Then the offender and the mediator meet with the **NAB**.

Most cases reach an agreement which may involve apologies, repayment, community service or other creative solutions the **NAB** members, offender and mediator may devise together.

NABs in Juvenile Cases

In cases with juvenile offenders, parents attend **NAB** meetings as well. Parents can explain how they reacted when they heard about the incident and how their own lives and the lives of family members have been affected.

For young people, a meeting with the **Neighborhood Accountability Board** is a powerful force for our community. The youth, parents and **NAB** develop a contract, lasting no more than a few months, for the young person to repair the harm and avoid a criminal record. By making the offense personal, solving problems directly, and supporting the young person’s efforts to change his or her own behavior, **NABs** can better meet the needs of youth and of our community. **Cost: \$50 SIRJ fee + \$56 court costs.**

SIRJ Partnering Organizations

- Saline County Attorney’s Office
- Salina Regional Health Foundation
- Saline County Sheriff’s Department
- Salina Police Department
- Salina Municipal Court
- Community Corrections
- National Institute of Corrections
- KIPCOR
- Eggers & Zimmerman Law & Mediation
- Murphey Mediation
- Salina Area United Way
- Greater Salina Community Foundation
- Salina Public Library

Neighborhood Accountability Boards are a program of the Salina Initiative for Restorative Justice.