

Neighborhood Accountability Boards

A **Neighborhood Accountability Board (NAB)** is a panel of trained local volunteers. When a person who has committed an offense is referred to a NAB, a meeting is set. At the meeting, NAB members listen to what happened, discuss with the offender the harm involved, and then all – including the offender – decide 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?



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 weeks or 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 if a court hearing has been held.)

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

SIRJ Partnering Organizations

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Saline County Attorney’s Office | Salina Area United Way |
| Saline County Sheriff’s Department | Salina Public Library |
| Greater Salina Community Foundation | Community Corrections |
| Eggers & Zimmerman Law & Mediation | Murphey Mediation |
| KS Juvenile Corrections Advisory Board | KIPCOR at Bethel College |