

Restorative Inquiry for Juvenile Hearing Boards

Adapted from Restorative Justice RI Bank of Useful Questions by Rhode Island for Community & Justice
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Restorative Questions for Youth

About the incident

- What were you thinking at the time?
- What did you want?
- What did you feel?
- Who was affected by this? In what ways?
- What could you have done differently?
- What would make this right/repair the harm?
- What can you do to prevent this from happening again?

About themselves

- If you weren't here right now, what would you normally be doing?
- What do you think other people see as your best quality?
- What are the hard things in your life that you want adults to understand?
- What do you find are the hardest things for adults to "get" about you?
- What did you dream about when you were younger? What do you dream about now?
- What is a goal you have for yourself? How will you celebrate yourself when you accomplish it?
- What is one obstacle that gets in the way of you reaching your goals? What is your plan to overcome this obstacle?
- When was a time in your life you felt you were successful?
- When was the last time you said "yes" and would have liked to say "no?" Why did you say, "yes?"
- What are the influences that help you get your obligations done when you would rather be doing something else?
- How do you motivate yourself? What do you need to help motivate you?

About their community

- What is something you value about your family, community, neighborhood, school, or culture that helps shape who you are today?
- Who is someone in your life that has helped you to grow? How have you grown? How did they help you to do so?
- Who influences you to keep going when you want to give up? Why are you influenced by this person?
- For you, what is the hardest thing about following this rule?
- What would help you to be able to follow this rule?
- Who do you feel safe with in the community/at work/at school?
- What is your favorite place to go to at school and why?
- Who would you go to for help when you were younger?
- Who turns to you for support/advice/help?

About emotional wellbeing & trauma

- What do you do with angry feelings?
- Has anger ever gotten you in trouble or been unhelpful?
- How can you express your anger in a way that does not get you in trouble or make things worse?
- What gives you hope?
- What are you worried about?
- What can you do to relieve the stress of your worries?
- What is one positive thing about (a lost loved one) that you want to carry on in their honor?
- What has been the hardest thing for you because of what happened?
- Who has helped you feel better when you feel down about this?
- What strengths have you seen in yourself and in others as people get through this situation?

About bullying

- What does it feel like to be bullied?
- What actions make you feel bullied?
- Why do you think that a person bullies?
- Remember a time when you saw someone else being bullied? How did that feel?
- What could you do the next time you see someone being bullied?
- What does it feel like to bully?
- What do you think you needed when you bullied someone else?

About making amends and restorative agreements

- Who was hurt in this situation and how?
- What do you want to happen now/soon/in the future?
- What have you thought about since the incident happened?
- What has been the hardest part of this for you?
- What has changed for you because of this incident?
- Has this situation changed your life at home or school?
- What concerns you the most?
- What role do you want to play in repairing the harm?
- What needs to happen so this does not happen again?
- What changes are you committed to making?
- What should the plan look like?
- Do you agree with this plan?
- What should we do if there are problems meeting the agreement?
- How will you know if things are better?
- What will you do to make sure these agreements are followed?

Restorative Questions for Parents/Caregivers

- What are the strengths of (name of child)? What is special about them?
- What suggestions/ideas do you have to increase their success?
- Is there anything else we should talk about?
- What is one step you would like to take to help your child in school?
- What are you willing to do to support (name of child) in repairing the harm?