

How Personality Type May Affect Outcomes of the Restorative Justice Process



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New Research



- The current criminal justice system is based on retribution not resolution.
- Alternative processes, such as restorative justice may help to reduce our burgeoning prison population and help victims reduce stress related health issues.
- What affects a person's willingness or ability to pursue alternatives to retribution?
 - Personality
 - Self-efficacy
 - Empathy

The glass is half full!



Empathetic

The glass is half empty.



Low Self-Efficacy

Half full... No! Wait! Half empty!... No, half... what was the question?



Low Self-Efficacy

Hey! I ordered a cheeseburger!



Authoritarian

The four basic personality types

Current Practices



Three Pillars of Restorative Justice

1. Focus on harm
 - Concretely
 - Symbolically
2. Harms result in obligations
3. Promotes engagement or participation

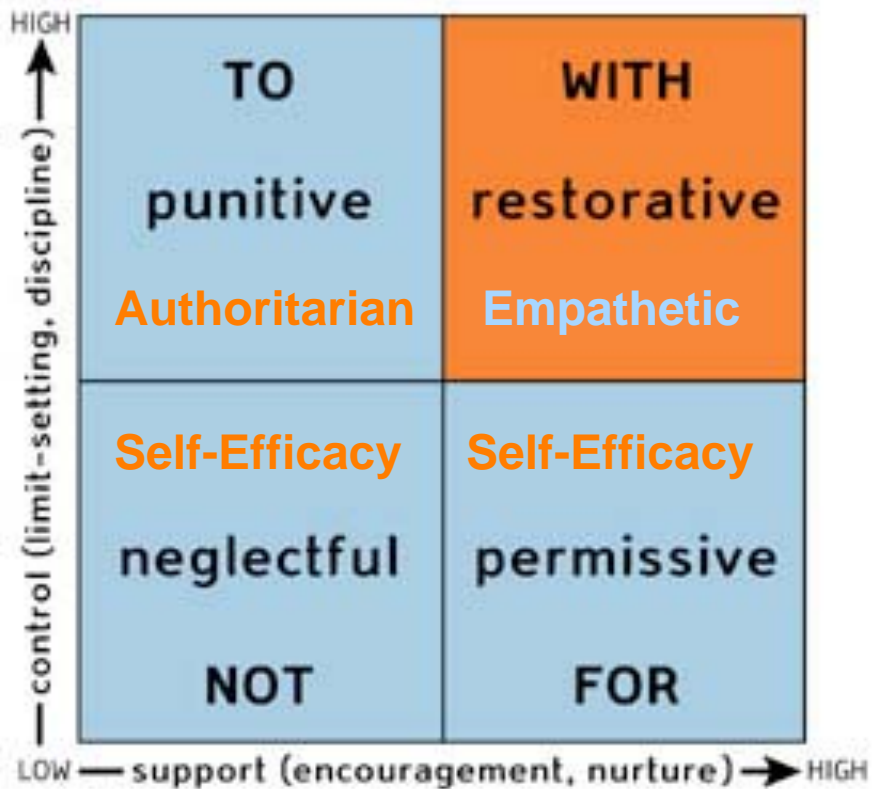
(Zehr, 2002)

Current Practice



Social Discipline Window (McCold & Wachtel, 1998)

Victim Perspective



The Authoritarian



Characterized as:

Conventional

Submissive to authority

Aggressive toward deviants and outsiders

- Tend to respond in an aggressive manner when threatened due to greater feelings of endangerment (Altemeyer, 2006)
- Especially when their power status is threatened (Wenzel et al., 2008)

Will choose a more punitive response to threats to power and status (Feather 1996, 2002; Vidmar, 2000; Wenzel, et al., 2008)

Will choose to put someone in jail for longer than a non-authoritarian personality (Altemeyer, 2006)

Empathy



The Interpersonal Reactivity Index (Davis, 1980, 1983)

1. Tendency to spontaneously adopt the psychological point of view of others in everyday life
2. Tendency to experience feelings of sympathy and compassion for unfortunate others
3. Tendency to experience distress and discomfort in response to extreme distress in others
4. Tendency to imaginatively transpose oneself into fictional situations

Self-Efficacy



DEFINITION

A person's perception of what they believe they can accomplish and it filters what they will attempt to do.

- A sense of personal mastery
- A perception of their control over events that affect their lives
- A perception of their capacity to muster the motivation to exercise control over their lives

Self-Efficacy



Outcome Expectancy

Means –Ends Belief

- The belief that a particular behavior is possible

Personal Outcome Expectations

- The belief that they can personally accomplish the desired behavior

Locus of Control

- The belief that the outcome of a particular behavior in a specific situation is perceived as dependent on skill

Kirsch, 1995

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