

What is Transformative Justice?

Our underlying philosophy is that crime is best viewed as a violation of people and relationships and that the conflict that emerges from the crime provides an opportunity for positive “transformation” for the victim, offender, and the community to move closer to ones purpose and freedom.

It is a deep rebalancing of the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual aspects of all people affected by a crime.


This transformation encourages rehabilitation, accountability and healing as its focus rather than simply incarceration and punishment. It takes many forms and is constantly evolving and changing lives for the better.




Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice

TRANSFORMING LIVES


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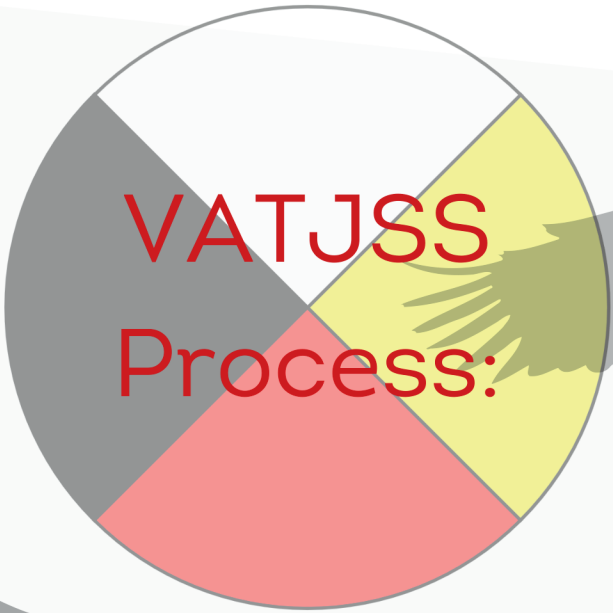
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 VATJSS-Vancouver

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Alternative Measures and
Extrajudicial Sanctions



VATJSS Process:

What is Alternative Measures?

Alternative Measures can be used in cases involving less serious offences.

They usually involve adult offenders with no criminal history. The accused is given the opportunity to accept responsibility for the crime and make amends to the community without going through the court process.

What are Extrajudicial Sanctions?

The term extrajudicial sanctions is used to describe alternative measures for youth who commit a minor crime.

Usually, the adult program will take approximately 3 months to complete and the youth program will take about 4 months to complete. The first month will consist of weekly meetings preparing for the Community Council Forum (CCF) and creating the Healing Plan

The Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Service Society (VATJSS) offers a justice component that is a pre and post court referral program, which provides for “alternative” to court proceedings. The program offers a constructive way to deal with non-violent, low risk offenders, who accept responsibility for their crimes. After creating the Healing Plan the client will have either 2 or 3 months to complete the plan.

(if successful a Stay of Proceedings is applied)

Requirements for Alternative Measures:

- To be eligible the accused must be of Indigenous ancestry.
- The accused must accept responsibility for the offence.
- The accused must be willing to participate in a CCF and abide by the requirements of their healing plan within an agreed time span.
- Crown Counsel/Probation/VPD must approve referrals.
- We accept category 3 & 4 offences such as, Theft, mischief, minor assault, causing a disturbance, possession of a controlled substance, etc.
- We cannot accept the following offences due to their more serious nature: Murder, sexual assaults, spousal assaults, or offences involving death

How to send a referral:

Send the Referrals to our Justice Case Managers via email, fax or mail

*Please note, we do not have access to JUSTIN. We need the referrals sent directly to our Justice Case Manager.

REFERRALS MUST INCLUDE:

- Report to Crown Counsel (RCC),
- Alternative Measures Form; including Contact information for the Client (Offender)
- Victim(s) contact information if applicable