

CHAPTER 5.2: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME, RESTITUTION

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Key Concepts/Objectives to Emphasize in Instruction and Learning Activities:

1. Three concepts related to the rationale and history of restitution. (5.2-3 to 5.2-6)
2. Roles of each criminal and juvenile justice agency in implementing victims' rights to restitution. (5.2-12 to 5.2-16)
3. Key elements of documentation of victims' losses for the purpose of restitution. (5.2-16 to 5.2-19)

Objectives:

1. To illustrate how the criminal and juvenile justice systems accept a variety of excuses for offenders who refuse to fulfill their legal/financial obligations.
2. To link victim restitution directly to offender accountability as well as to the victim's capability to endure losses that result from crime.

Description of Activity and Faculty Guidelines:

This exercise is designed to offer an overview of the myriad excuses that offenders use for not paying their victim restitution.

At the beginning of the NVAA week, place two or three tear sheets up that are entitled "*Best Excuses for Not Paying Victim Restitution.*" Ask students to list "the best excuses they have heard from offenders/probation officers/others for offenders' not fulfilling their restitution obligations." Tell students that a "fabulous prize" will be awarded for "the best excuse." When selecting "the best excuse," highlight the following points:

- C When agencies with jurisdiction over offenders allow them to *not* pay restitution based upon "ability," it infers (wrongly) that victims (who did not choose to be victimized) are somehow able to pay.
- C Victim restitution needs to be linked directly to *offender accountability* for the harm he/she has caused.

During the NVAA session on "restitution," award fabulous prizes for the "top three best excuses for not paying restitution."

Can Be Utilized As:

Individual Activity Small Group Activity Large Group Activity

Anticipated Amount of Time Required: 3 Minutes

- 03 minutes to award “fabulous prizes”

RESOURCES NEEDED *(Please check all that apply:)*

- Tear sheets and felt pens
 VCR/monitor
 Overhead projector and screen/LCD and laptop
 Blank overhead transparencies and overhead pens
 Masking tape
 Index cards
 Individual or group worksheets
 Timer
 Other *(please describe):*
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