

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY

FILE: 1890

JUSTICE COUNCIL/FAMILY COURT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Madam/Gentlemen:

Re: Juvenile Delinquent Restitution Program

Recommendation:

"THAT the attached article regarding restitution, as ordered by the Juvenile Court, be included in the 1980 May 01 edition of Information Burnaby."

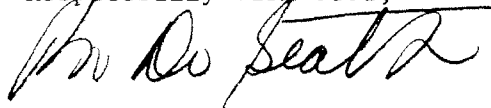
R E P O R T

The Burnaby Justice Council/Family Court Committee have been advised of the Juvenile Court's attempt to make juveniles accountable for their actions, with respect to crimes committed, by ordering restitution either to the victim or through Community Service work.

Upon successful completion of the restitution order, the Juvenile generally has a feeling of satisfaction for their transgressions.

Your Committee is of the opinion that the placement of the article in the 1980 May 01 edition of Information Burnaby would apprise the residents of Burnaby of the existence of this program.

Respectfully submitted,



R.D. Seath,  
Committee Secretary

RDS:ef

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- EDITOR - INFORMATION BURNABY

Juvenile Delinquents do make Restitution

Because the Juvenile Court is a closed Court, many people believe that juveniles are not held accountable for their actions. For the most part, the courts make every attempt to hold a juvenile accountable for his/her actions, particularly where there is an identifiable victim involved. In such cases, usually restitution is ordered in some form.

Restitution has been ordered for many years, but there are more variations of the same theme available to the courts today.

- 1) The most obvious form of restitution is monetary restitution. Wherever feasible the court will order that a young offender pay to the victim a reasonable amount of restitution. In cases where there are numerous offences involving large sums of money ordering restitution may be unreasonable.

Monetary restitution can also be arranged on a voluntary basis as part of a diversionary plan. The juvenile and his/her parents would have to agree that restitution be paid to the victim within a short period of time.

- 2) Restitution can also be made in kind. Through the Community Service Program, a juvenile can be ordered to repay the victim by working a given number of hours for the victim. Of course, the victim would have to agree to this arrangement before such an order is made.
- 3) Where there is not an identifiable victim, or the victim is Government or public property, the juvenile responsible is frequently ordered to do a set number of hours of community service for a non-profit organization.

This is also done where the victim is not asking for any form of restitution. In either case, the community service is closely monitored and supervised to ensure that the work is done satisfactorily and the set number of hours are completed.

In addition to monetary and Community Service restitution, the juvenile may also be asked to apologize to the victim. This may be particularly applicable where the victim has not suffered any actual losses.

It should be noted that where restitution is ordered, in any form, the juvenile must make such restitution or he/she will be returned to court, either for enforcement of the order or alternate dispositions. A juvenile probation order can last until the person is 21 years of age.

When a juvenile has made restitution, it usually gives him/her a feeling of satisfaction in that he/she has 'paid' for his/her transgressions. Although it won't deter all juveniles from committing further delinquencies, it usually makes them think twice before they do so.

E.H. Klassen