



**Revitalized
Reintegration
Services**
Road to Restoration

Call to Action: Legal Education Advisors & Volunteers



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About Us

Revitalized Reintegration Services is a non-profit organization based in Durham Region that provides support programs and services to those navigating the criminal justice system across Ontario. We work with:

- Inmates that are currently being incarcerated
- Those who have been incarcerated and are now on release (i.e., releasees, parolees)
- Those who have received non-imprisonment sentences (i.e., probation)
- Victims and survivors of crime
- Those who have lost someone due to criminal activity.



About Us

We understand that the criminal justice system is challenging for many individuals to maneuver, especially when trying to cope with life-changing circumstances. The overarching vision for Revitalized Reintegration Services is quite simple: to build positive and healthy communities for all. Leading with faith, awareness, and empathy, we aim to foster restoration and healing, while rebuilding healthy communities.

We aim to accomplish this mission by working towards goals that focus on supporting growth and development of individuals and communities.





Our Approach

Our approach is:

- **Culturally-informed:** Through referrals, and consultation with community and industry leaders, we work with other organizations to create solutions for clients that are focused on the relationship between culture and identity. We also aim to understand how this relationship impacts healing processes for clients.
- **Collaborative:** Through referrals and consultation with community partners and leading experts, we work with other organizations to create ideal solutions for clients.
- **Holistic:** Physical, mental, spiritual, cultural, and social health and wellness are integral parts of our programming, as we aim to help clients grow at all parts of the self.
- **Person-Centered:** Revitalized offers personal programming plans that are designed to meet each client's unique set of needs.





Our Services

Outreach Initiatives

We engage in outreach activities to provide vulnerable populations with access to resources that are critical to their growth and development.

Resource Development

We develop resources for the community and criminal justice practitioners. Our community resources are designed to help individuals understand the available tools and community programs they can utilize for support. Additionally, we aim to enhance community members' capacity for positive growth and development. The resources we provide for practitioners aim to help them understand how they can better support the community that they work with.





Our Services

Mental Health and Counselling

Our mental health and counselling services are offered through our in-house “counsellingship” program. Our counsellingship program provides mental health and counselling support using an approach that blends the broadly focused, informal aspects of mentorship with the goal-oriented aspects of counselling. Like counselling, one of the main focuses of our counsellingship program is to encourage self-understanding and self-acceptance in the lives of our clients.

Housing Support Program

Our housing support program aims to help clients find, secure, and maintain long-term housing.





Our Services

Employment Support Program

Our employment support program aims to help clients find, secure, and maintain long-term employment. For most of our programming for employment, we work in tandem with employment agencies to offer clients a network of reliable and knowledgeable sources for support. We traditionally offer clients who come to us for employment support with foundational assistance.

Everyday Living Assistance

Our everyday living assistance program aims to help clients to learn how to do tasks that are crucial to their ability to function independently and positively. Through interdependent coaching, resource sharing, workshops, activities, and an array of learning opportunities, clients can build important life skills as well as a sense of confidence, and enhanced community connection.





Our Services

H.A.L (Hope After Loss) Program

H.A.L is a community-led program. It is a network of partners who will assist individuals navigate community spaces and receive support. Within the HAL program, we aim to do two things. First, we aim connect individuals to resources, and help them navigate institutions and bureaucracies in their community, such as Durham Children's Aid Society, for example.

Secondly, H.A.L aims to connect those who are experiencing similar challenges with one another. The motivation behind this aspect of HAL is to facilitate healing through community connection.



Project Outline

Project Description

Our project is the creation of a free online course. This online, multi-media course will disseminate foundational information about criminal law to support disadvantaged communities, with a primary focus on BIPOC communities. This course will provide information about the processes of navigating through the criminal law court system to prepare individuals for what they may potentially come while they themselves navigate through the system, as well as resources they can utilize to address some of these challenges.

In speaking with organizational partners and in conducting research it has come to our attention that many low-income individuals are not adequately prepared when encountering the criminal justice system. Clients who we have worked with that have to navigate the criminal legal system often come from low-income backgrounds, and find themselves struggling to prepare themselves for the financial, mental, and emotional challenges that come with navigating this system.

We aim for this project to provide accessible and easily-understandable information about the criminal and family legal system. These courses will not be intended to replace legal counsel, nor will these courses provide detailed information about the nuances of criminal law. Rather, these courses will prepare individuals for the process of going through the criminal legal system, dispel myths about this legal system, and address other common concerns about navigating this systems. We intend that the information shared in this one-stop-shop course will not only provide those practical information about how to navigate these systems, but also to emotionally and mentally prepare them for the system experience.



Project Outline

Why launch this project?

The experience that marginalized individuals have when navigating the justice system is a very different experience from someone who is more affluent or privileged. Lack of access to invested counsel, unpreparedness, and unawareness of one's rights are all things that commonly happen to marginalized individuals when navigating through the criminal justice system. Additionally, these things make the process of navigating through the system much more complicated and difficult.

There is accessible information available to help prepare individuals for what they may encounter when navigating through the criminal justice system; however, this information is very generalized. We understand that the challenges that underrepresented groups, especially BIPOC individuals, face when navigating the justice system are extremely challenging. In many cases, their culture and race can lead them to get involved in the system in one way or another (i.e., social marginalization, over-policing, the school-to-prison pipeline, etc.).

Our project is aiming to fill a gap in the criminal justice supports available for marginalized, low-income populations by providing them with information that is relevant for the sociolegal challenges that may arise during their experiences in the justice system. We believe that this information can assist in creating fairer outcomes for marginalized groups who navigate the criminal justice system.



Project Outline

Project Goals

- To help increase community members understanding of navigating through the criminal legal system.
- To reduce feelings of uncertainty amongst low-income community members that navigate the criminal legal system.
- To increase low-income community members access to information about the criminal legal system.
- To increase feelings of resiliency and confidence of criminal legal system amongst course participants.

Potential Course Content

These are some of the topics we intend to cover in our criminal legal system course:

- Why someone might end up in criminal court.
- What to know about selecting legal representation.
- What to know before a trial date.
- What to expect on the day of trial (what to bring, who will be there, what the process/steps of going through trial look like).
- An overview of important terms (e.g., preliminary hearing, types of sentences, etc.)
- What happens if a person is convicted of a criminal offense? What happens afterwards?
- The rights that someone has when being accused of a crime.
- Legal tools and resources available to you to support your case.



Project Outline

Project Timeline*

Month	Activity
Late Feb – Late April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussions on course content with interested community leaders• Creating a list of volunteers and project advisors
Late April – Late May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalizing details with project volunteers and project advisors• Host a meeting with all volunteers and advisors to finalize course content and discuss project• Content research• Course outline development• Ongoing discussions with advisors/volunteers
Late May – Late August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creating and editing module content• Resource development (i.e., course videos, PowerPoints, transcripts, PDF's, etc.)• Course assembly and review• Course promotion begins• Ongoing discussions/volunteers
Early September – Mid October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalizing course details• Editing content• Course promotion continues• Launch event: TBD
October/November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Course launch
Feb 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing information, outcomes and data about the first few months of the course launch

*Please note that this timeline is dependent on variables beyond our control (i.e., risks, assumptions, COVID-19 pandemic, etc.)



Project Partnership

Partnership Scope

We are hoping that we can partner with law schools, criminal justice-focused organizations, police agencies, lived-experience experts, and legal clinics to accomplish the following objectives:

Education and Advisory Support:

- Engage in discussions to understand the best strategic approaches in developing and sharing course content.
- Develop an understanding of the gaps in understanding of the criminal justice system by underrepresented groups (i.e., newcomers to Canada, BIPOC individuals, etc.) and the areas that they need the most support in.
- Develop a better understanding of the mental or psychological state of underrepresented and minority groups as they navigate the criminal justice system.

Course Development:

- Assist in developing course content and materials (i.e., developing scripts for recording, recording videos for course content).
- Review and provide input on rough and final drafts of course content.
- Assist in promoting the course amongst key catchment groups, as well as other organizations, community members, and institutions.



Project Partnership

Partnership Scope

We anticipate that the time commitment that participants will loan to this project will vary depending on the role of their involvement. For example, those who choose to participate in filming may expect to spend between 5-8 hours per week on this project for 1-2 months. In contrast, participants who are only providing advisory support may expect to spend 2-4 hours per month throughout the project's term.

Our timelines are flexible, and we will make accommodations to support those who are participating in this project.



Contact Us

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