

# WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (RJ)?

**Restorative Justice** brings an offender and the person they have harmed **together** so that they can **talk** or **communicate** in other ways about what happened.

The offender must accept responsibility for what they have done before any RJ can happen.

Restorative Justice does not replace the criminal justice system but helps to deal with the emotions and stress caused by crime.

So both the person harmed and the offender can move on with their lives.

## HOW CAN RJ HELP ME?

**Restorative Justice** can be helpful for offenders because it helps you to **understand** the **impact** that your actions have had, to **think about** what you did, and, where possible, to make **amends**.

It gives you a chance to listen, and to answer any questions the person you have harmed might have.

You might apologise for what you have done, and agree what you can do to make things better.

That might include dealing with the issues in your life that led you to commit the crime.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What happens if I change my mind?

You can change your mind at any time, either by opting out or opting in.

## What happens if I want to communicate with the person I harmed but they don't want to communicate with me?

RJ has to be voluntary for both victims and offenders; if the victim decides they do not want to communicate with you, our team will talk to them about what other support they want and find out if there is any other way that you can help to make amends.

## What if I don't want to meet the person I harmed face to face?

If they agree we will arrange another way for you to communicate.

## Will this affect the sentence I get?

If a case goes to court then sentencing is always up to the Judge. Restorative Justice is not an alternative to sentencing. The Judge is the only person who can decide on the appropriate sentence for the crime that you have committed.

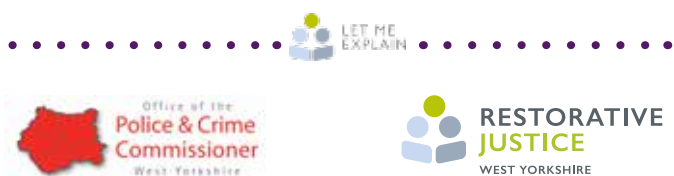
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**For further information or to talk to somebody in your area contact us today.**



# LET ME EXPLAIN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



**Have you thought about talking with the person or people who were harmed by what you did? You could try Restorative Justice to explain why you did something that caused harm to the victim or victims.**



## HOW DOES IT WORK?

If the **victim** would like to **talk with you**, and you decide that you want to try it, then a member of our team will **meet with you**.

They will tell you what will take place and give you the help you need.

Agreeing to take part in **Restorative Justice** will not always mean that you will meet your victim. They also have to agree to meet you.

In some cases the victim may want to write to you and you can reply. Or you may decide to write a letter first.



## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

If you **both agree**, our team member will work with you and the person you have harmed to help you to **communicate** with each other.

That might be by letters, or by our team member meeting with the person you have harmed and with you separately, or by a meeting between you and the person you have harmed.

Everyone has to agree about the way this happens and our team member needs to be sure that you are doing it for the right reasons.



**'Felt a lot better. I had got things off my chest, I got the anxiety out. I had felt so guilty.'**

Quote from offender who took part in RJ

## THE MEETING

If everyone **agrees** that you and the person you have harmed would like to **meet**, the meeting will be held in a **safe place**.

During the meeting everyone will get to have their say about what happened. Our team member will help both the person you have harmed and you to talk about this, and will help you both to agree about how the harm or upset can be put right.

You can bring a friend, or family member, with you. The person you have harmed can do the same.



## AFTER THE MEETING

If you are being **supported** by probation, they will be able to help you **talk through** the experience and how it can help you to move forwards.