

WHO WILL BENEFIT?

Victims often want to understand why the crime happened to them. They also want to play some part in the process of what happens to the person who committed the crime. Victims want to know that they are not likely to be harmed by the same person again. This process gives you a chance to ask those questions, to play a part in the Criminal Justice process and to be clear about the offender's future intentions. At all points in the process your welfare will be the most important concern of the Facilitator.

RJ can help offenders to work towards positive outcomes for their victims and themselves. RJ means that offenders have the chance not just to say sorry and feel sorry, but to do something about it.

WHO MAKES IT HAPPEN?

RJ is organised by a trained RJ Facilitator from the Thames Valley Restorative Justice Service. The Thames Valley Restorative Justice Service has experience of running hundreds of RJ conferences as part of an international research programme, which has demonstrated overwhelming satisfaction from victims.

PLEASE REMEMBER

You are in control of the process. We will not proceed without your agreement.

HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

Phone or fax using the details at the bottom of this page :



A multi-agency partnership working to provide restoration for victims and offenders in the Thames Valley.



To find out more contact:

Thames Valley Restorative Justice Service
Bicester Probation Office
Units 9 & 10
Talisman Business Cent
Talisman Road
Bicester
Oxon OX26 6HR

Tel: 01869 328562 or 01869 328500
Fax: 01869 328528
Email: restorative.justice@thames-valley.probation.gsi.gov.uk

giving victims a choice

INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS

This leaflet describes how you could have your say in how the sentence imposed on the person who harmed you is carried out.



WHAT IS RJ?

Restorative Justice is the opportunity for you to have your say as part of the offender's community sentence, to ask questions and to see if anything can be done to put right the harm that was caused by the offence. If you wish, it could involve meeting the offender to talk about:

- What happened.
- Who was affected, and how.
- What can be done to make things better.

If you do not want to take part, other ways will be explored for the offender to repair the harm.

WHO IS SUITABLE?

If you have experienced an offence as a personal victim (not domestic violence) you are eligible to take part in the programme. The offender will be expected to:

- Accept responsibility for causing harm.
- Be willing to meet you, but only if you choose to meet him/her.
- Explore ways of making amends for the harm caused.

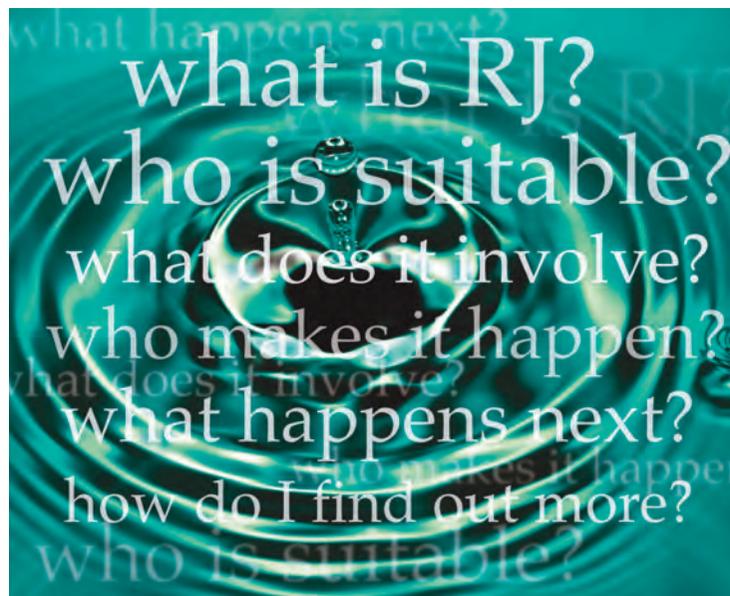


WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

Subject to your wishes, the programme involves you meeting with a Restorative Justice Facilitator who will talk to you about:

- What happened in the offence.
- How you and others were affected by what happened.
- What questions and concerns you are left with following the offence and its aftermath.
- Whether there are things that can be done as part of the offender's sentence that would make things better.

At the end of that meeting you will be asked to decide about whether to meet with the offender, or to identify another way in which he/she could make amends.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

After this meeting the RJ Facilitator will either:

- Start the preparations for an RJ Conference with the offender.
- Or, leave you to think about what you want to happen.
- Or, accept that you would prefer not to take part.
- Plan with you a way to be involved that is helpful to you.

If you decide to meet, we will arrange everything and facilitate the event. At the meeting the offender may come to a voluntary agreement with you to further repair the harm in some way, but that is not a requirement of his/her order. Some time later the offender would be involved in a review with his/her Offender Manager about whether he/she has complied with the agreement and what has been achieved by the RJ process.

