

DOES THIS AFFECT SENTENCING?

If a case goes to court, then sentencing is always up to the Judge. If someone has taken part in a Restorative Justice process before sentencing, then a report will be given to the Court by your Facilitator which will record what has happened and what you think about the incident. The Judge is the only person who can decide on the appropriate sentence for the crime that the offender has committed.

HOW CAN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE HELP ME?

Restorative Justice can be helpful for you because it enables you to understand the impact of your actions. It gives you a chance to listen and to answer any questions the victim might have.

You may want to apologise for what you have done and agree what you might do to make things better. This might include addressing the issues in your life that led them to commit the crime.

Offenders who have taken part in Restorative Justice have said that the experience helped them to understand how their actions affected others and to enable them to deal with feelings of guilt or remorse, and to feel that they have done something positive.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- 85%** of victims who participated in Restorative Justice feel it was a positive experience.
- 33%** less repeat offending among offenders coming out of prison after Restorative Justice.
- 49%** Conferences led to 49% fewer cases of victims with clinical levels of post-traumatic stress symptoms.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What offences can Restorative Justice be used for and is it available to me?

It is a free service available to those involved in crime or conflict in Bedfordshire. It can also be used in any crime, from low level to serious offences.

What if I want to take part but the victim doesn't want to?

Restorative Justice is a voluntary process therefore everyone involved must consent to take part.

What if I change my mind?

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

CONTACT US

For further information or to talk to a Restorative Justice advisor in Bedfordshire contact:

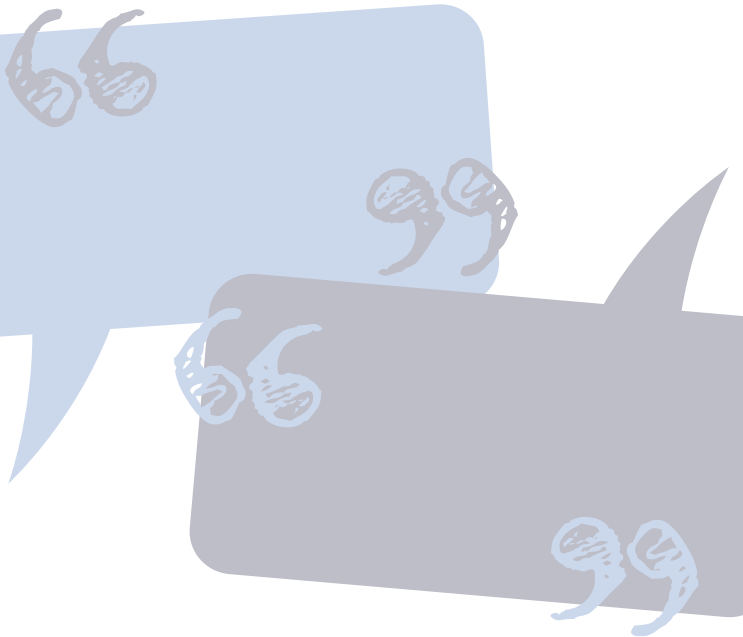
☎ 0800 0282 887

✉ restorativejustice@beds.police.uk



📱 SCAN ME

Restorative Justice BEDFORDSHIRE



How can Restorative Justice help you make amends?



WHAT

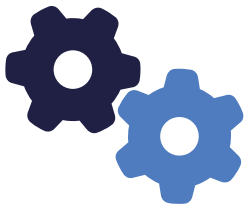
IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Restorative Justice enables offenders to meet or communicate with their victims to understand the real impact of their actions.

It allows the victims and offenders to communicate within a controlled environment to talk about the harm that has been caused and to find a way to repair that harm.

It can help offenders to recognise the impact of their actions, to take responsibility and make amends.

Restorative Justice does not replace the criminal justice system but helps to deal with the emotions and stress caused by crime, so both parties can move on with their lives.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

Restorative Justice can only take place in cases where you have admitted guilt or been found guilty of a crime.

A victim does not have to meet with their offender - both sides have to agree that they would like to meet for Restorative Justice to go ahead.

Restorative Justice does not have to take place straight after a court case; it is available when you are ready.



THE FIRST STEP

A trained facilitator will meet with you to talk through what has happened and find out about your understanding of the harm caused.

Your facilitator will ask you what you could do to make things better.

If you feel that you are willing to meet with the victim, your facilitator can arrange this.

Your facilitator will talk to the victim about what has happened and asked the victim if they would like the opportunity to meet you or have some other type of communication with you.



Write a letter



Meet face to face



Send a video



YOUR FACILITATOR

Your facilitator will be a specialist in providing Restorative Justice.

They provide a completely confidential and impartial service. They are there to support you and to make the experience of Restorative Justice as positive as possible for everyone involved.



THE CONFERENCE

If you, the victim, and your facilitator agree that it is right to arrange a meeting then a conference can go ahead. If another type of communication is more suitable your facilitator will help with this.

You are welcome to bring a friend or family member with you to support you and the victim can do the same.

The meeting will be guided by your facilitator. It will be held in a neutral, safe place and usually lasts for about an hour and a half. During the meeting everyone will get to have their say about what happened.

WHAT DOES RESTORATIVE JUSTICE DO FOR THE VICTIM?

For some people who have been affected by crime it helps to explore why the crime happened.

Evidence shows that most people who take part in a Restorative Justice Process come away feeling satisfied because it has allowed them to have their say.

It also helps people to move on and feel less fearful of crime in the future.