

DOES THIS AFFECT SENTENCING?

If a case goes to court, then it's always up to the Judge. If someone has participated 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.

WHAT

DOES RESTORATIVE JUSTICE DO FOR THE OFFENDER?

Restorative Justice can be helpful for offenders because it enables them to understand the impact that their actions have had. It gives them the chance to listen and to answer any questions you might have.

They may apologise for what they have done and agree what they might do to make things better. This might include addressing the issues in their 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 feeling 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 offender 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:

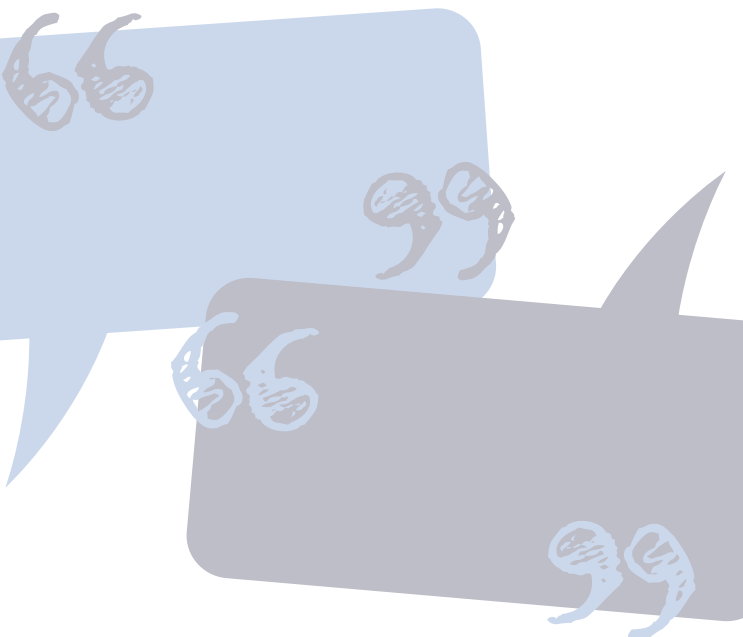
☎ 0800 0282 887

✉ restorativejustice@beds.police.uk



📱 SCAN ME

Restorative Justice BEDFORDSHIRE



Have you
been a victim of Crime?



WHAT

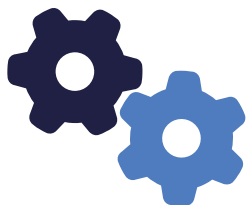
IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Restorative Justice enables **victims to communicate with the person that has harmed them to understand the real impact of their actions.**

The victim can explain the effect of the crime and to seek a direct explanation from the offender.

Through this the offenders have the opportunity to recognise the impact, to take responsibility and to 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.**

This process is voluntary and therefore **both the victim and offender have to agree** to take part.

Restorative Justice doesn't have to take place straight after a court case; it is available when you're ready.



THE FIRST STEP

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

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

Your facilitator will talk to the offender about what has happened and ask the offender 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 offender, 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 offender 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.

HOW CAN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE HELP ME?

For some victims 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 victims to move on and feel less fearful of crime in the future.