

Restorative Justice – Quick Guide

Restorative Justice is a process that can bring victims and offenders into facilitated contact. Restorative Justice is:

- Victim-led and provides victims with the opportunity to explain the full effects of the crime and have their questions answered
- Allows offenders to take responsibility and understand the real impact of their behaviour.
- A restorative experience can positively impact the health and wellbeing of victims (i.e. capacity to ‘cope and recover’); as well as reducing the fear of crime and re-victimisation.

Requirements of Restorative Justice

- There must be a direct victim
- The offender has to admit some responsibility
- Participation requires voluntary consent

Victims and offenders can be brought into facilitated contact by a variety of means such as

- Face-to-face facilitated meeting
- Shuttle mediation
- Letter

When can Restorative Justice be used?

- It can be used at **any stage** of criminal proceedings e.g. NFA, Conditional Caution, Charge, Post Sentence etc

What happens if I have a suitable case?

- This is a free service therefore, once a suitable case is identified, you can email the R:L inbox with the details. Then you will be contacted by a Restorative Justice Practitioner who will assess the case circumstances and will, if appropriate, contact the victim/offender while keeping you updated throughout the process

What is the difference between a Community Resolution and Restorative Justice?

- A Community Resolution is an out of court disposal outcome.
- Restorative Justice is **not** a disposal; it is a practice that brings an offender and victim and / or community into facilitated contact to discuss the impact of the offending and to forge a positive way forward.
- Restorative Justice can be applied to complement any stage of criminal proceedings from out of court disposal right through to post sentence.
- Community Resolutions can however, impose restorative elements for example: a letter of apology, victim conferencing or repairing damage.

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