



Restorative Justice-Reparation-Mediation

for

Victims - Offenders - The Community

Victim / Offender Mediation

Restorative Justice Services

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What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice is a way of responding to crime, which allows the people directly affected or involved have a say in deciding how the damage or harm caused might be repaired.

Restorative Justice believes that

- Crime hurts victims and their families
- Crime also affects the offender and their family, and the wider community
- The victims voice needs to be heard
- The offender needs to accept responsibility and make some effort to repair the harm caused

Victim / Offender Mediation

'Pre sanction' Victim / Offender Mediation provides a safe non-threatening forum for victims to directly or indirectly communicate with an offender.

This model is particularly designed to meet the needs or concerns of the victim whilst also raising the awareness and understanding of the offender of the impact of their offending behaviour.

Key Elements of Victim / Offender Mediation

The Court refers before final sanction is imposed or decided. The offender must be pleading guilty and accepting full responsibility for the offence.

Victim and offender are contacted and separate meetings are held to discuss and assess levels of interest, suitability, motivation and elements of a possible agreement and / or outcome.

If the appropriate conditions exist and both parties are agreeable, mediated communication can take place. This can take place using verbal or written instructions carried by our service **or** a meeting can be arranged between the victim and offender, mediated by our service representatives.

An offender may also be referred to a Reparation Panel to address issues of personal responsibility, affects of offending behaviour, pro social choices into the future.

At the next Court date a report is provided by **RJS**. outlining the main points of any discussions or agreed outcome with the Victim and any agreed actions arising from a meeting with a Reparation Panel.

The Court retains the final decision on sanction.

How can it help?

Victims ...

can tell their story, talk about the impact of the crime

seek apologies and reparation from the offender

seek further information or raise issues of concern directly related to the offence and the offending behaviour

express their feelings and voice their anger and / or frustration

seek commitments from the offender on future behaviour or contact

Offenders ...

are challenged about their behaviour by their victims and / or victim advocates

provide victims with further information on issues relating to the offence

offer apologies, pay compensation and / or undertake acts of reparation as agreed by the victim

give assurances and commitments to the court and the victim with regard to future behaviour

demonstrate to their victim, the Court, their family and community their desire to make amends, desist from further offending.

are encouraged to make choices that will assist them make more informed decisions in the future.

may be asked to meet a Reparation Panel

About the Service

Restorative Justice Services is a restorative justice initiative managed by a partnership of stakeholders in the criminal justice system. The Probation Service, An Garda Síochana and Victim and Community advocates.

We provide voluntary, safe, non-threatening, facilitated restorative justice programmes for people who have been affected by crime.

Our work is mainly referred to us from the Courts before a formal sanction is imposed.

We have also worked on cases that have already been dealt with by the Courts in a *post sanction* context.

If you have been effected by crime and believe we may be able to assist in some way, please contact our offices. Your call will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Restorative Justice Services

Tel: 01 4515 022 – email: office@rjs.ie



... Working in partnership...

The Courts

The Probation Service

Crime Victims Helpline

An Garda Síochana

The Community