

MAKE AMENDS

Empowering people to make things right

Restorative Justice

Information for those responsible for
crime, conflict, anti-social behaviour
or causing harm



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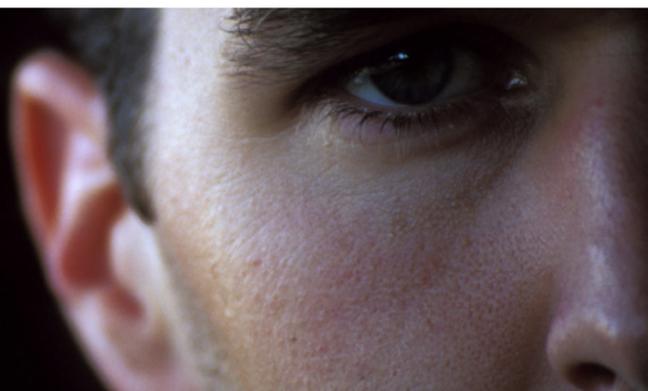


If you are responsible for crime, conflict, anti-social behaviour or you have harmed others, you may be considering what you could do to make amends for what you've done. Having the opportunity to listen to how your actions have affected others, answering questions and negotiating ways in which you can make amends are an important step towards healing the harm which has been caused.

We understand that it takes strength and courage to communicate with people who you have harmed, but the process of Restorative Justice not only helps those who have been harmed, it can help you too.

What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice creates opportunities for people affected by crime, conflict, anti-social behaviour or the harmful actions of others to come together with the person responsible for causing the harm in order to get answers to their questions and to explain the effect the incident has had on them. It gives those who accept responsibility for the harm they have caused an insight into the real impact their actions have had on the person affected, their friends and family or the community. It also creates opportunities to find ways in which those who have caused the harm can make amends for what they have done. The process aims to help everyone move on.



Key Points

- Your involvement is entirely voluntary.
- You are free to withdraw from the process at any point.
- You will be given as much information as you need in order to make an informed decision about taking part.
- If you are not ready now, that doesn't mean you can't access this service at a later date. There are no time limits for restorative meetings to take place.
- If you want to take part in Restorative Justice you must take responsibility for the harm that has been caused.



'It was important for me to know that the person who burgled my house was sorry for what they had done and wanted to apologise'

RJ Participant.

How does Restorative Justice work?

'I think Restorative Justice is a good thing as offenders don't often get the chance to understand how what they have done really affects their victims, so it makes it easier to continue to do it again and again. But when you look into the eyes of someone you have hurt it makes it a lot harder to do it again.'

RJ Participant.

Restorative Justice is a voluntary process for everyone involved. If you choose to take part you will be supported throughout the process by a trained independent practitioner. The first step is for a practitioner to meet with you to talk about what happened and to listen to what you think needs to happen to make things right. Your practitioner will talk through the options available. If you decide that you would like to meet the person who you have harmed, your practitioner will explore the possibility of this happening. If a meeting can't go ahead you might like to consider alternatives such as indirect communication in the form of a letter, a recorded message or by offering to answer questions through your practitioner.

If you and the person who has been harmed agree to meet, your practitioner will work with you to identify a suitable and neutral venue for the meeting. This will be done at the right time for you both. Your practitioner will guide the meeting to make sure that everyone will be given the opportunity to have their say in a safe way. You can also bring a friend, family member or supporter along. Lastly you will be part of the planning for this meeting and will know in advance who else will be there.

What are the benefits for me?

Many people who have caused harm agree to be a part of a restorative meeting because they have a desire to repair the harm that they have caused. Hearing about the effect that your actions have on others might be hard to hear, but it helps those who have been affected to get answers to their questions and can also reduce their fear and anxiety. Taking part in a restorative meeting can also help you to fully understand the harm that has been caused and can help prevent it happening again. During a meeting you may offer an apology or agree to undertake some positive actions to make amends. All of this could help you to move on too.





My Practitioner is called?

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Their contact details are:

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What is Make Amends?

Make Amends is a service that delivers Restorative Justice across Devon and Cornwall. Our practitioners have undergone specialist training in Restorative Justice and work to the standards set by the Restorative Service Quality Mark (RSQM). They are individuals who are passionate about repairing harm and strongly believe in the principles of Restorative Practice. Their aim is to support you and all of the other parties to find a resolution and to make the experience as positive as possible.

If you feel that you would benefit from Restorative Justice please contact us by telephone on **01803 222033** or via email at **makeamends@shekinah.co.uk**

Working in partnership with...



Devon & Cornwall Police



PCC
Office of the Police and
Crime Commissioner
Devon and Cornwall

