

MAKE AMENDS & RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FAQ's

QUESTIONS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE CAUSED THE HARM

Q. I'm someone who has caused harm, why should I do RJ?

A. Many people who have caused harm agree to be a part of a restorative process 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 restorative justice can also help you to fully understand the harm that has been caused and can help prevent it happening again; it also enables you to explain what happened. The restorative process may lead you to have the chance to offer an apology or agree to undertake some positive actions to make amends. All of this could help you to move on too.

Q. I'm someone who has caused harm, can I still make a referral?

A. We are a victim-led service, but we do take referrals from those who have caused the harm as long as there is not a risk they are trying to re-access their victim. All referrals are assessed for suitability, including those made by those who caused the harm. We'd encourage you to make a referral via our [website](#) on the understanding that the person harmed may not want to participate and/or it may not be a suitable referral.

Q. I need to make things right; can I do RJ?

A. Yes, you can. Many people who have caused harm agree to be a part of a restorative process 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 restorative justice can also help you to fully understand the harm that has been caused and can help prevent it happening again; it also enables you to explain what happened. The restorative process may lead you to have the chance to offer an apology or agree to undertake some positive actions to make amends. All of this could help you to move on too.

Q. I don't think I deserve the chance to do RJ but can I still do it?

A. Yes, you can. We'd encourage you to access restorative justice even if you feel you don't deserve the chance to participate. Our Practitioners will provide the opportunity for you to talk through how you feel and address any emotions and feelings. RJ may prove to be the way to regain some self-confidence and address what took place. A referral can be made via our [website](#).

Q. If I engage with RJ, does this mean I have to apologise to the person harmed?

A. An apology is encouraged but if you feel this is something you may not be able to offer, this wouldn't exclude you from taking part in restorative justice. Sometimes those who have caused the harm are unable to apologise but are able to offer an explanation. Those who have been harmed will have various needs and our trained Practitioners work closely with both the harmer and harmed during the preparation stages to manage expectations for both parties. You may find as you come through the process, that your feelings change and an apology maybe something you'd like to eventually offer. You will never though, be forced to provide an apology.



Q. I'm in custody, can I still take part in RJ?

A. Yes, you can still access restorative justice if you are in custody. RJ work is supported by local prisons and also probation officers.

Q. If I do RJ, will other services be involved?

A. It may be beneficial for other services to be aware of or involved with the RJ process. However, we wouldn't contact any service or discuss the case with them until we had discussed this with you and the relevant consent forms have been signed. Make Amends do take a multi-agency approach to their work, but only when relevant to the case and processed with the participant.

