

MAKE AMENDS & RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FAQ's

FAQS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN HARMED

Q. I'm someone who has been harmed, why should I do RJ?

A. The RJ process although hard, will enable you to have a voice, to understand why and what took place in more depth, and provide an opportunity to have questions answered and your needs met – whatever these may be. Our aim is to help you to recover from the incident and be able to move forward more positively. For some of our participants, it does bring closure. In addition, the impact on others who may have been affected by the incident can be explored.

Q. If I engage in RJ, does that mean I need to forgive the person(s) who caused the harm?

A. No. Some participants do find they want to extend forgiveness to the person who caused them harm, but this isn't a requirement or an expectation. You may find your needs and feelings change during the process and you find you do want to offer forgiveness but equally, you may feel very differently, and this is ok.

Q. I feel I wouldn't be able to meet the person who caused the harm face to face, is there another way of completing RJ?

A. You do not need to meet the person face-to-face to have a successful restorative outcome. When you work with our Practitioners, they will explore which approach is suitable for you. RJ can be delivered in several ways, this can include telephone or video conferencing, written correspondence, and 'shuttle restorative justice' through the Practitioners - these approaches may or may not lead to a face-to-face meeting at a later stage.

Q. Can RJ work if the perpetrators haven't been caught?

A. For RJ to be successful, we need to communicate with and have consent from both the harmed and the harmers. We have worked on cases before where we have assisted those harmed to write letters to the harmers, even if these can't be delivered to them. We'd encourage you to make a referral to Make Amends via our [website](#) and one of our team can discuss whether your referral is suitable for RJ.

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.

