

MAKE AMENDS CASE STUDY

SEPTEMBER 2021

Nature of case / Facilitators if relevant	Causing serious injury by driving
Demographics	Both the harmer and harmed are males in their thirties. The harmer had had been living in accommodation related to his job in Devon. The harmed is a Police Officer who had moved back to be near family, having lived in London.
Narrative around the situation	<p>The incident involved the harmer causing injury to the harmed by driving a car at him whilst under the influence of alcohol and following a request to stop by the police.</p> <p>The harmed had heard about RJ and approached his Prison Offender Manager whilst in custody about engaging with our service. He had wanted to access RJ because the Victim Impact statement read out in court mentioned the impact the incident had had on the family of the harmed. His wife had stated that she felt upset since the incident because they had moved to Devon to get away from the violence faced by police in London.</p> <p>The harmed subsequently agreed to RJ. There were some barriers to progressing the work with the harmed due to his erratic shift patterns. The lockdown at HMP Dartmoor due to the pandemic meant that we were not able to visit the harmer during this time and phone calls were also difficult. This became easier after restrictions were lifted.</p>
Organisations involved	HMP Dartmoor and the Victim Liaison team
RJ interventions provided and outcomes	<p>Preparation took place with both harmed and harmers to see what they needed and to identify the outcome they wanted. When they both were ready, and all harms had been mitigated as much as possible, a face-to-face conference was arranged. This took place at HMP Dartmoor and proved to be a safe place for both parties to tell their story and for the harmer to apologise. The result was that the harmed said he forgave the harmer because he felt everyone could make mistakes under the influence of alcohol. Also, the harmed empathised with the harmed because he shared that he had a brother who had the same mental health diagnosis as the harmer did. He encouraged the harmer to be patient but to try to keep trying to find the best medical help.</p>



	<p>They had both wanted to move on from this incident and both parties reported that they now felt this was possible. The harmer reported no longer feeling guilt for the incident. He had also wanted to reassure the harmed and his family that he was doing a good job and to tell his family that Devon was a safe place for him to work. The harmed described a new feeling of hope that those who cause harm can change and make positive improvements to their life. The harmer also said this had given him a greater belief that most of the police were good people who wanted the best for people.</p> <p>Both parties said that they had felt supported throughout the process and were kept well informed of the progress of the case.</p>
<p>Testimonials/quote from any parties involved</p>	<p>Testimonial from the harmed:</p> <p>“I would recommend it to anyone. Have a go. It was a very positive experience. I would recommend it to others for the relief of stress and anxiety that could have been caused having been a victim. Completing a face-to-face conference is a great way of completing RJ. Being able to look someone in the eye and not through a screen or a letter makes all the difference. I was grateful for the ability to see the remorse in another man’s eye.”</p> <p>Testimonial from the harmer:</p> <p>“I’d hurt someone and didn’t know how much. The process made me aware of how many people were impacted. After the conference, it felt like a weight had been lifted. I even hugged the person I harmed at the end of the meeting. I’m really pleased I went through the process. I like that it’s voluntary and that I wasn’t pushed into doing RJ. It made me want to do it.”</p>
<p>Any other comments or observations</p>	<p>Following completion of the case, the harmed wanted to support any promotion work with the police to encourage other officers to try RJ. The harmer wanted to be an ambassador for RJ in the prison to answer questions for any prisoners who might want to take part in RJ. Subsequently a video was produced which shared the lived experience of the harmed in this case.</p>

