

MAKE AMENDS CASE STUDY
CAUSING SERIOUS INJURY BY DANGEROUS DRIVING
 June/2023

Nature of case / Facilitators if relevant	Causing Serious Injury by Dangerous Driving
Demographics	Harmer and Harmed both young men.
Narrative around situation	<p>A car, driven by the harmer, had lost control and mounted the road bank while travelling. Serious injury was caused to the harmed, who was in the rear seat passenger seat.</p> <p>The harmer and harmed were very close friends.</p> <p>The harmer drove under a learner’s insurance and was under the influence of alcohol when the crash occurred. He was sentenced to imprisonment.</p> <p>The harmed has been left with lifelong and lifechanging injuries. He is currently still in hospital receiving specialist medical care but has made some improvements and has movement in his arms and hands.</p> <p>At the point of referral, it was stated that the Mum of the harmed also wanted to engage in an RJ process with the harmer (ongoing).</p> <p>Both harmed and harmer wanted to rebuild their friendship, but felt it was necessary to have a conversation about what happened before they could move forward.</p>
Organisations involved	Victim Liaison Officer, Prison and Probation, Hospital (Psychologist for harmed)
Risks	<p>The harmed was said by Mum and his psychologist that he often experiences waves of varying emotions, such as upset, frustration and anger. It was important that we explored this further with him to ensure he felt fully prepared for what he may hear the harmer say when discussing the narrative (as it would be the first time hearing the full narrative and specifics from somebody that was there while it happened). Also, it was important for us to explore where the anger comes from (is it directly aimed at the harmer, or at the situation and impact?). Equally, there was a slight risk as to how the harmed may present/react to hearing the narrative and answers to his questions, as there is with any conference.</p> <p>However, much preparation was achieved, including shuttle mediation and emotional readiness activities. Both individuals were very keen to do the conference as soon as possible – so we had to manage their</p>



	<p>expectations that we had to make sure it is a safe process for them and that it would not cause them further harm.</p>
<p>RJ interventions provided and outcomes</p>	<p>We spent many sessions exploring the needs, feelings and thoughts with both the harmed and harmer. We also spent sessions completing shuttle mediation so that the harmed had no surprises when he would hear the narrative/answers and understood that they both wanted to be as close as they were before the incident, and to have regular communication.</p> <p>We completed a virtual conference, as the harmed was in prison and the harmer was in hospital. We had one practitioner with the harmed during the conference, and another in the prison with the harmer. This worked very well, and they were both beaming with smiles when they saw each other and started speaking.</p> <p>Post-conference, we have supported both individuals with setting up phone calls through the prison to ensure they can have regular communication and rebuild their friendship.</p> <p>Both individuals have expressed their positive experiences of RJ. Upon initial conversations with the Sergeant, it was clear that the harmed was keen to turn what happened to him into a positive, and to prevent this happening to anyone in the future, so he had been speaking with Learn to Live with the Fire Brigade to help others and raise awareness. We also offered them the opportunity to engage with some talks with young people in schools about their experience of RJ – both were “buzzing” about this opportunity. Additionally, an opportunity has arisen within OPCC to produce a promotional case study video – again, both individuals are incredibly excited for this opportunity as it is important for them to be able to share their story for prevention.</p>
<p>Required Action/Support</p>	<p>We continue to work with the harmer and the harmed’s Mum through an RJ process where we are currently completing shuttle mediation and conference preparation. It is important for all involved that the RJ conference between the harmer and harmed’s Mum is completed before the harmer’s release from prison.</p> <p>The harmer has a good support system in place and has a job set up for him with family upon his release.</p> <p>The harmed continues to be in specialist medical care and is experiencing unfortunate delays. He continues to be supported by his</p>



	<p>psychologist, although often says he feels he does not need it, and generally copes very well with high hopes for the future.</p>
<p>Learning from experience/case</p>	<p>This case was incredibly rewarding, and I felt honoured to be able to facilitate this process for the both of them; the outcomes have been immensely powerful.</p> <p>It has been an opportunity for me to take lots away from it, both personally and professionally. It has reminded me of the power that comes with an individual's needs and decision making, regardless of anyone else's thoughts and feelings towards that decision.</p> <p>(The harmed, harmer and harmed's Mum all mentioned that their family and friends do not/will not understand them engaging in this process and wanting communication with one another – but that it is what they need to be able to move forward and they will do it regardless).</p> <p>It comes back to the importance of empowering our participants through the process, ensuring they feel supported and safe.</p>
<p>Feedback from harmed, harmer, relative, professionals, RJ Facilitator</p>	<p>Feedback from Harmed: <i>"I had 4 or 5 meetings leading up to the conference, I felt fully prepared. The questions I had discussed with the practitioners [that I wanted answering] gave the conversation structure and I was ready. Everything was in place."</i></p>

