

Prince Edward Island Restorative Justice Program

DO I HAVE TO MEET THE VICTIM?

No. Communication can take place in a number of ways. Victims and offenders can meet face to face or communicate through letters or video messages. Alternatively, the facilitator can relay messages back and forth between you and the victim.

WILL MY PARTICIPATION AFFECT MY CRIMINAL RECORD, CHARGE OR SENTENCE?

Each case in a restorative justice process is unique. Any change made to an offender's charge or affect on their sentence depends on a variety of factors, including the outcome of the process and the source of the referral. It is important to note that the process is voluntary, so should an offender decide not to participate, they will not be penalized further but will be referred back to the formal criminal justice system.

HOW DO I BECOME A PARTICIPANT?

If you have taken responsibility for your actions, you can express your interest to participate in the Restorative Justice Program to your Probation officer, defense counsel or the involved police officer. The request is then referred to the Restorative Justice Coordinator.

Your request will be assessed for suitability. Requests made directly by an offender to the Restorative Justice Program will not be accepted.

CAN A VICTIM REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM?

The Restorative Justice Program accepts requests for participation from Victim Services on behalf of victims of crime.

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FACT SHEET FOR OFFENDERS

PrinceEdwardIsland.ca

WHAT IS THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM?

The Restorative Justice Program is a Department of Justice and Public Safety program that helps those who have caused harm in Prince Edward Island take responsibility for their actions and communicate with the victims and/or communities they have harmed.

As an offender, you can acknowledge the harm you have caused to victims participating in the program by telling your story and hearing first-hand how your crime has affected them.

The program is based on the principles of Restorative Justice which focus on offenders taking responsibility for their actions, understanding the victim's experience, addressing -- where possible - the harm caused and preventing future harm.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Restorative Justice Program can take a variety of forms and is adaptable to the participants' needs. With the help of trained facilitators, victims and offenders can meet face to face, correspond by letter, or exchange video messages. Alternatively, the assigned facilitator can relay messages or letters between victims and offenders.

Participation in the program is voluntary at all stages and is guided by a community facilitator who is trained and experienced in dealing with crime.

Facilitators with both the victim and offender throughout the process to identify and address both participants' needs.

At all times, facilitators are considerate of the victims' and the offenders' physical and emotional well-being. Measures, such as on-going assessments, are completed to ensure participants' safety and privacy.

If, at any time, you, or the victim, decide to stop participating, the decision will be respected. You can reconsider your decision in the future.



WHO ARE THE FACILITATORS?

The Department of Justice and Public Safety contracts and trains community facilitators from across the province who are experienced in working with in situations of crime. The facilitators work with victims and offenders separately to prepare each for participation in the program.

WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE IN THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM?

The Restorative Justice Program gives you, the offender, a chance to:

- accept responsibility for your actions and acknowledge the harm caused;
- tell your story and hear first-hand how the crime you committed has impacted the victim; and
- help determine what steps can be taken to repair the harm caused in a meaningful way.

These steps can contribute to your successful reintegration into the community and repair relationships.