

Prince Edward Island Restorative Justice Program

ARE THERE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TAKEN?

Yes. Measures, such as ongoing assessments, are completed to ensure participants' safety and privacy.

DO VICTIMS NEED TO MEET THE OFFENDER?

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 facilitators can relay messages back and forth between victim and offender.

WILL THE OFFENDER'S PARTICIPATION AFFECT THEIR 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 CAN VICTIMS PARTICIPATE IN THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM?

Victim Services, on behalf of a victim affected by crime, can make a referral by contacting the provincial Restorative Justice Coordinator.

CAN AN OFFENDER REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM?

Offenders who have taken responsibility for their actions and are interested in participating in Restorative Justice Program must be referred to the program by either their Probation officer, police, legal counsel or a correctional staff member who supports their participation.

Once a referral has been received, the Restorative Justice Coordinator and facilitators assess its appropriateness and the offender's motivation to participate in the program. Requests made directly by an offender are not accepted.

For more information please contact:

restorativejustice@gov.pe.ca

Victim Services:

victimservicescharlottetown@gov.pe.ca

victimservicessummerside@gov.pe.ca

Prince Edward Island **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM**



FACT SHEET FOR VICTIMS

PrinceEdwardIsland.ca

WHAT IS THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM?

The Restorative Justice Program is a Department of Justice and Public Safety program that offers victims of crime a chance to communicate with the offender who harmed them. Through the Restorative Justice Program, victims can obtain information, describe the crime's impact to the offender and find ways to address, where possible, the damage caused by the offender's actions.

The program is based on the principles of Restorative Justice which seek to address the harm caused by crime by focusing on the needs and issues of the people affected. The program emphasizes the offender taking responsibility for their actions, while promoting empathy for victims, reparation and prevention of future harm.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Restorative Justice Program can take many forms and is guided by participants' needs. With the help two community facilitators, victims can meet with the offender face to face, correspond in writing or by video message. Alternatively, the facilitators can act as a go-between, relaying messages between victims and offenders.

Victims' participation in the program is voluntary at all stages and is guided by an experienced and trained community facilitators. Facilitators represent the victim and the offender, and work with both to find ways to identify and address their needs. At all times, facilitators are considerate of the participants' physical and emotional well-being.

If a victim decides to stop participating at any point, their decision will be respected. Victims can revisit their decision at any time.



WHO ARE THE FACILITATORS?

The Department of Justice and Public Safety trains and contracts facilitators from across Prince Edward Island and are experienced in working in cases of crime. The facilitators work with the victim and offender separately to prepare them for participation in the program.

HOW CAN PARTICIPATION IN THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM BE OF BENEFIT TO VICTIMS?

The Restorative Justice Program provides victims with an opportunity to:

- find answers to questions left unanswered after sentencing;
- tell their story and be certain the offender understands the impact of the crime;
- become better informed about the crime and the offender's level of accountability and remorse;
- receive support in dealing with emotions or anxiety associated with the crime, the offender or the offender's eventual release into the community; and
- Express their needs to the mediator and have a say in how the program progresses.