

# Justice and Community Safety Directorate

## Information for Offenders

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Restorative justice (RJ) allows you a chance to make things right through an exchange of information between the people most affected by an offence - the victim and their supporters (i.e. their family and friends) and you and your supporters (i.e. your family and friends). RJ can happen either face-to-face or indirectly such as third party mediation, taped recordings or letter exchanges. These exchanges are called conferences.

Participants decide what type of conference will be best for them - face-to-face or indirect. Whichever method decided upon, the process always addresses three fundamental questions:

- **What happened?**
- **How were people affected?**
- **What needs to be done to make things better?**

If you are a person who has committed an offence, RJ gives you opportunities to:

- take responsibility for the offence;
- find out how the offence has impacted on others; and
- repair the harm to the victim and others who have been hurt by what happened.

Participation is voluntary for all participants and it may be withdrawn at anytime, up to and including a conference.

For further information about what happens when a matter is referred to RJ and what happens during a conference see [RJ Steps](#).