

Restorative Justice

Preparation for
people who have been
harmed by crime



Department of
Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt

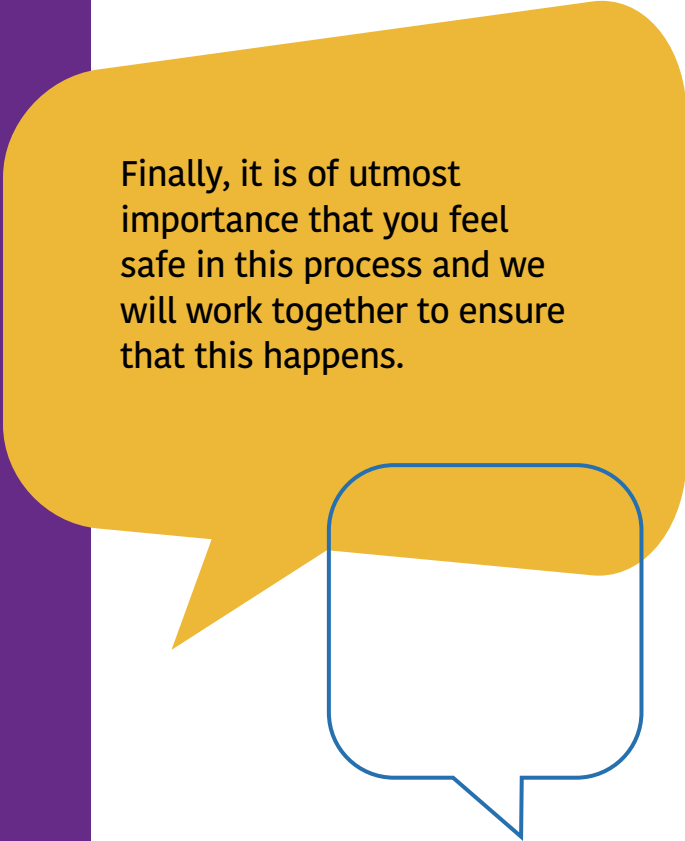
Männystríe o tha Laa

www.justice-ni.gov.uk

Why is preparation so important?

The aim of restorative justice is to help individuals who have been impacted by a crime to reach a point where they are no longer, or are less burdened or controlled by what happened in the past.

We recognise that the crime may have had a significant and/or traumatic impact on you and those closest to you - physically, mentally, emotionally or financially. You may feel angry, upset, fearful and anxious or have a mixture of emotions about what happened. Now that you have decided to meet or communicate with the person who caused this harm, we will make the time and space to understand your experience and help you identify what you need and expect from a restorative process. We will work at your pace through preparation, until you feel ready and able to take part. Please remember that you have the right to withdraw from this process at any time.



Finally, it is of utmost importance that you feel safe in this process and we will work together to ensure that this happens.

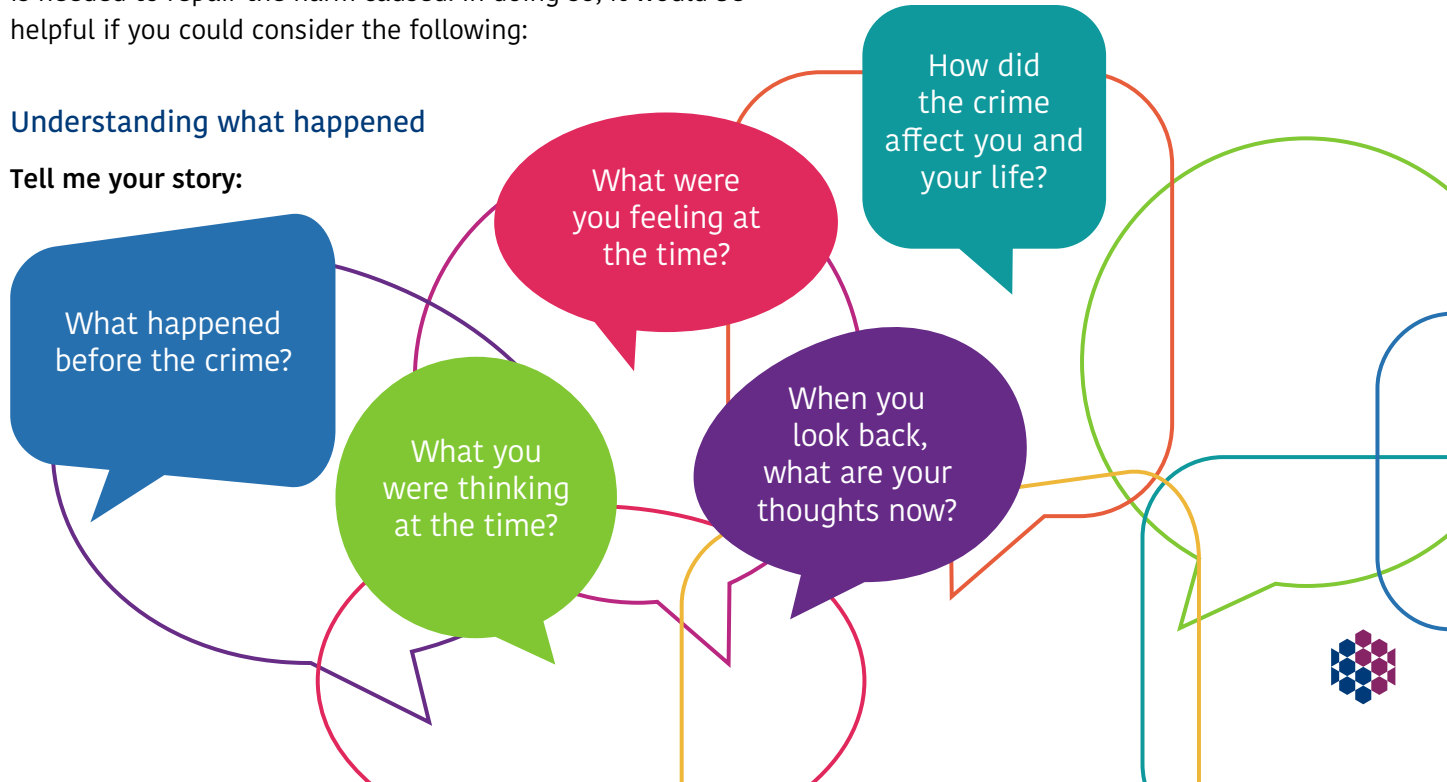


What does preparation look like?

We will work alongside you to help you make sense of what happened, how the crime affected you and identify to what is needed to repair the harm caused. In doing so, it would be helpful if you could consider the following:

Understanding what happened

Tell me your story:



How the crime affected you and your life

Physical impacts

Were you injured?

Did you require medical treatment?

If so, how did this impact on your day-to-day life?

Have you recovered or are you still getting over your injuries?

Financial impacts

If anything was stolen, was it returned?

If your property was damaged, was it repaired?

Have you lost wages through being unable to work?

Emotional/ Traumatic impacts

What were you thinking and feeling at the time?

What are you thinking and feeling now?

How has this experience affected you and your life?

Who else has been impacted, and how?

What has been the most difficult part of all of this?

The Justice process

How was your experience of reporting the crime?

Were you satisfied with how your case was dealt with?

Which part of the justice process affected you the most, and why?



Participating in a restorative justice process

- What do you want, and need, to say?
- What questions would you like to ask?
- What do you need to hear from the person who harmed you and how would you feel if this did not happen?
- What might you find challenging and how you will manage your emotions?
- Anything else that we should be aware of?

What do I need from the other party to repair the harm caused?

- What practical action could they take to repair the harm caused?
- What else can they do to help you move on?



Practical arrangements

Face-to-face restorative conference

If you wish to meet face-to-face with the person who caused you harm, where would you like the meeting to be held? (This must be a neutral and suitable venue):

- What time and date would work best for you?
- What can we do to make you feel comfortable and safe?
- Who would you like to bring as support for you?
- Do you wish to be seated in the room before the other party?
- Have you any preference over the room layout, including where you wish to sit?
- Do you have any additional needs/requirements that we need to know in advance?

Indirect Communication


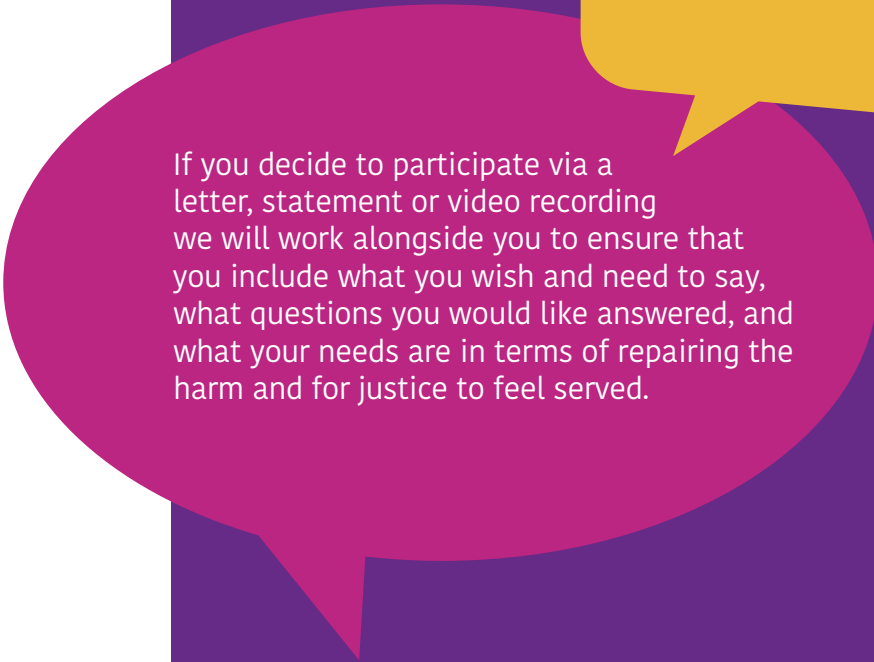
If you choose shuttle mediation (where you and the person who harmed you are in separate rooms):

- Where would like this to be held?
(This must be a neutral and suitable venue).
- What time and date would work best for you?
- What can we do to make you feel comfortable and safe?
- Who would you like to bring as support for you?
- Do you have any additional needs/requirements that we need to know in advance?



If you select someone to represent you at a restorative conference:

- Who will be participating and what is their relationship to you?
- What are you permitting them to share on your behalf?
- What are they going ask for, in terms of repairing the harm caused?



If you decide to participate via a letter, statement or video recording we will work alongside you to ensure that you include what you wish and need to say, what questions you would like answered, and what your needs are in terms of repairing the harm and for justice to feel served.



