

Restorative Justice

Preparation for people
who have caused
harm through a crime



Department of
Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt

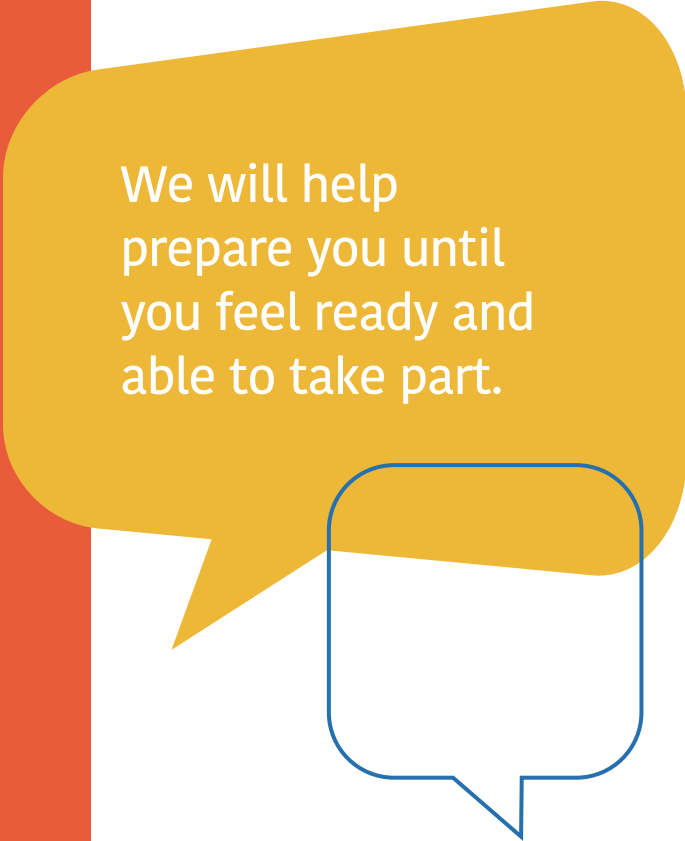
Männystríe o tha Laa

www.justice-ni.gov.uk

Why is preparation so important?

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

What you did may have had an impact on you and you may feel guilt, shame, anxiety or a mixture of emotions. Now that you have agreed to meet or communicate with the person you harmed, we will work alongside you to help you take responsibility for your actions, express remorse, and figure out what you need to do to avoid further offending.



We will help
prepare you until
you feel ready and
able to take part.



What does preparation look like?

In order to make sense of what happened, the consequences of your behaviour and what is needed to repair the harm caused, take time to think about the following:

Understanding what happened

What happened when you committed the crime?

What were you thinking and feeling at the time?

When you look back, what are your thoughts and feelings now?



The impact of my crime

Physical impacts

Was the victim injured and if so, how?

What impact might this have had on their life?

Financial impacts

If anything was stolen was it returned?

If it wasn't returned, what happened to it?

Was any property damaged or destroyed?

If so, what might have been the impact on the person harmed?

Emotional impacts

How do you think the person you harmed felt at the time?

How traumatic might it have been for them?

Who else might have been affected by what happened and how?

What has been the most difficult part out of all of this for you?



What can you do to repair the harm caused?

- What do you want/need to say to the person you harmed?
- What practical action can you take to make amends?
- What else can you do to help the other person move on and begin to recover?

What do you need as part of the restorative process?

- What is the most important thing that you want to get out of this process?
- What do you fear, and hope for, in this process?
- What help will you need afterwards to help you stop offending?



Your role in the restorative process

Your story -
what do you want
and
need to say?

How are you
going to say it?

What might
be particularly
difficult for you?

What questions
do you think you
might be asked?

What
questions
would you
like to ask?

How you will
manage your
feelings/
emotions?

Any other issues
that it may be
helpful for us to
think about?



Practical arrangements

It is important you feel comfortable and safe during the restorative process.

- Is the venue, time and date suitable for you? (It must be a neutral and suitable venue).
- Who would you like to bring as support? (The practitioner must have had contact with your supporter beforehand).
- Have you any other needs/requirements that we should know about?



