

How will I benefit?

RJ may give you an opportunity to:

- Tell your story, be heard and understood; and
- Ask questions and get answers.

It could help you:

- Reduce your level of fear by personalising the offender
- Put the offence behind you and offer emotional closure

And the offender?

The process encourages the offender to take responsibility for their behaviour, understand the impact their actions have had on you and repair some of the harm caused.

How it works?

You will be allocated your own personal Victims First co-ordinator who will arrange to meet you to answer any questions that you may have.

What other victims say:

“After meeting my offender I felt such relief. Finally I’m getting to sleep at night.”
Susan, victim of burglary

“I had so many questions. Why me? Was I targeted? Will it happen again? Getting the answers has really helped me move on.”
Si, victim of assault

To find out more please contact us on:

0800 011 3116

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VERA BAIRD QC
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

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Victimsfirst
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Restorative Justice

A GUIDE FOR VICTIMS

Your voice,
your choice

Registered Charity Number 1164578

About Restorative Justice (RJ)

Victims First Northumbria (VFN) aims to put victims of crime at the heart of the Criminal Justice Service.

RJ is a voluntary process. It brings together victims and offenders and encourages those who have caused harm to be accountable for their actions.

It aims to find a positive way forward for all.

Research has found the majority of victims who takes part in an RJ intervention are satisfied with the outcome and have increased confidence in the Criminal Justice System.

The details and information you provide are confidential and will not be disclosed without your permission.

VFN aims to:

- Put you, the victim, at the heart of all Restorative Justice Interventions;
- Increase opportunities for you or your representative to have your say; and
- Improve our service by listening to you.

How does it work?

VFN can help you to take part in direct or indirect options and will find an approach that works best for you.

Including:

Direct Involvement:

- Restorative conference: A supervised face to face meeting so both parties can express their feelings with regard to the offence.
- Shuttle mediation: Mediation via a third party to communicate your thoughts and feelings without meeting the offender.
- Signposting: Directing you to other agencies that may be more appropriate or better to support you.

Indirect involvement:

- Reparation: A specific piece of work that benefits you.
- Indirect mediation: Having your thoughts and feelings communicated by DVD/Audio.
- Letter of apology/explanation: A letter written by the offender allowing them to apologise for their behaviour.