

Facilitator Guidance: Preparation with Harmed Persons

Below are examples of questions and topics you may want to cover with your harmed persons and their supporters prior to a meeting. There is no requirement to cover them in order or to cover each one, though the answers will assist you to build rapport, introduce the idea of RJ and add to your RJ Suitability Assessment. You may not be able to cover them all in a single preparation session, and the harmed person may need some time to reflect before giving answers.

Remember to get an RJ Consent Form signed and emphasise that the process is voluntary so any participant may withdraw at any time. Explain the facilitator's role is to ensure a meeting is safe, and if there are concerns about safety, we may not be able to go ahead.

- How would you like to be addressed? (first name or Mr/Mrs...)

Share the details you know of the crime and confirm they are correct.

- (If not obvious) how did you become aware / find out about the incident?
- What were you thinking at the time?
- How did you feel at the time?
- How have you felt since?
- How else were you affected?
- What was the hardest thing for you?
- Has anybody else been affected?
- What would you say to the wrongdoer if they were here now?
- How do you think they would respond to that?
- Do you think they ought to know what you have told me?
- What would make things better for you personally?
- What do you think could stop this happening again?
- Do you think you could say these things to the wrongdoer yourself?
- If I arranged a safe meeting, would you attend and tell them what you told me?
- How much of what we have discussed today are you happy for me to share with the wrongdoer?
- What do you think you would take from a meeting?
- Who would you want to bring with you if you met the wrongdoer?
- Do you know the wrongdoer or any of their friends or relatives?
- Is there any history of issues/difficulties between you and the wrongdoer or any of their friends, relatives or associates?
- Do you have any health issues that we might need to consider? (substance misuse, mental health, physical disabilities)
- Where would you want the meeting to take place (if not in prison)?
- How would you react if... (the wrongdoer says... the wrongdoer does... your hopes aren't met?)
- Is there anything else I need to know that we haven't covered?
- Are you currently engaged with / Would you like any support from other services? (Victim Support, Social Services, GP etc)