

# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCING

## INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS

### PRE-COURT CONFERENCING



#### WHAT VICTIMS SHOULD KNOW

##### Your participation is entirely voluntary.

If you don't want to participate in the conference, you don't have to. You can withdraw from the process at any time, including during the conference.

##### Your safety is paramount.

The conference convenor will ensure that the conference is conducted in a safe and impartial manner. You will be seated near an exit should you wish to leave at any time. You will be met by a Victim Support Officer when you arrive.

##### You will be supported throughout the process.

A Victim Support Officer from Victims of Crime NT will support you throughout the process. You are also encouraged to bring along a support person to the conference.

##### You can choose to send a representative.

Participating in a conference is often a personally beneficial and restorative experience as a victim. However, coming face-to-face with your offender and talking about your experience can be confronting. If you would like to nominate someone you trust to attend the conference on your behalf, you can do this. Alternatively, your Victim Support Officer can represent you.

#### VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICES

Victims of Crime NT (VoCNT) is committed to supporting victims throughout the process of restorative justice conferencing.

Victim Support Officers can also provide:

- crisis counselling
- referrals to additional services
- applications for financial assistance, where applicable
- assistance with preparation of documentation such as victim impact statements.

**For more information about the support available to victims please contact:**

**Darwin Office**  
08 8941 0995

**Alice Springs Office**  
08 8952 4466

**Tennant Creek Office**  
0474 700 187

Freecall: 1800 670 242    [www.victimsofcrime.org.au](http://www.victimsofcrime.org.au)



# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCING PROCESS

## Before the Conference

A Victim Support Officer will meet with you to help you prepare. They will help you frame your answers to the questions you will be asked in the conference about the harm that has been done and what you think the young person could do to repair this harm. The convenor will either attend this meeting or be in touch at another time.

A Police Officer from the Youth Diversion Unit will convene the conference. The convenor will meet several times with the young person to prepare them to meet you and any other victims of the incident. The convenor will ensure that the young person understands the process, is willing to discuss what happened, accepts responsibility for their actions and admits it was the wrong thing to do.

The convenor will also meet with other people directly impacted by the young person's behaviour, such as their family or community members, to understand the impact of behaviour on them and get their thoughts on what can be done to repair the harm caused.

## During the Conference

The conference will take place in an informal setting such as a youth service or community hall. Where possible, all participants will sit in a circle, next to their support people.

The convenor leads the conference, using a script which asks exactly what happened, what harm was caused and how that harm can be repaired.

Firstly they will ask the young person:

1. What happened?
2. What were you thinking at the time?
3. What have you thought about since?
4. Who has been affected by what you have done? In what way?
5. What do you think you need to do to make things right?

They will then ask you:

1. What did you think when you realised what happened?
2. What impact has this incident had on you and others?
3. What has been the hardest thing for you?
4. What do you think needs to happen to make things right?

You will have the chance to speak openly, and directly to the young person, about how the crime has affected you and those around you.

## After the Conference

The Victim Support Officer will continue to be available to support you if needed and will keep you up to date on the court outcome and the young person's progress if you choose.

You will be asked to complete a survey questionnaire about your experience of the conference process. This helps our service improve the experience of victims in the future.