


Victim Participation Spectrum

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- **No involvement:** we contact the victim to ensure they've given permission for the offence to be referred, describe restorative justice, and answer any questions they have. The victim confirms that they consent to restorative justice being used and tell us that they don't want any involvement in the process or any further contact from us. They also confirm that they understand how restorative justice may or may not impact the criminal justice process (e.g., if referred to restorative justice as diversion, the matter won't be dealt with in court).
 - **Possible involvement:** the victim wants to test the waters before committing to restorative justice. For instance, they may ask us to communicate with the offender and report back to them; write letters back and forth with the offender; ask us to record a video of the offender talking about the offence or answering a question requested by the victim, then watch it together with the victim; etc. This experience may address the victim's needs, or the victim might decide to proceed indirectly or directly (described below) or to disengage from the process.
 - **Indirect or partial involvement:** rather than participate in a full dialogue with the offender, the victim wants to engage in one or more of the following:
 - Make a request of the offender (e.g., financial restitution, donation to charity, community service, answers to questions, personal reflections, future commitments, etc.) that we will put forward on their behalf
 - Write letters or engage in another form of in-direct information sharing with the offender
 - Ask us to contact/meet with them at certain points in the restorative justice process, e.g. after the dialogue to discuss how it went; when the offender completes the agreement; etc.
 - Write a statement that we read at the dialogue on the victim's behalf
 - Send someone to meet with the offender on their behalf (e.g., a friend or family member; victim services worker; RJV volunteer; member of the community who had a similar experience; etc.)
 - Have an informal, facilitated conversation/meeting between them and the offender at some point before or after the restorative justice dialogue
 - Be in a separate room from the offender during the dialogue and either listening to the conversation from a distance, having the facilitators bring information back and forth between them, or using Skype in two locations
 - Have a limited role in the dialogue, e.g. speak to the offender and leave right after; listen to the offender and not speak; decide in the moment (during the dialogue) how much they want to say/hear; etc.
 - Have a victim healing circle (with zero offender involvement) with RJV staff and/or volunteers, friends, family, victim services worker(s), and/or other supporters (e.g. their counsellor)
 - **Full involvement:** the victim wants to participate in preparation work, the dialogue, and all follow-up after the dialogue, until the case is complete and closed.