

Victim Rights

- 1. Safety:** The victim should always be prepared for the meeting. Someone should ask what would feel unsafe for the victim and deal with these issues. For example: "Do you now have any safety concerns around this crime?" "What can happen in this meeting and in the future that will help you feel safe?" "Where would you feel the safest in this room?" "Would you like to be walked to and from your car?" "Do you want to be in the room when the probationer comes in?"
- 2. Validation:** Victims need to know they are heard and believed. For example: "We recognize what was done to you was wrong." "We are here to listen and accept what you say." "I'm so glad you came here and told us this." Keep eye contact with the victims when they are talking.
- 3. Information:** Victims need information from the person who harmed them and also about restorative justice. Present the intent of the meeting and summarize the facts of the case before the discussion begins. "What questions can we answer for you about the restorative process?" "Do you have particular questions for the person who robbed you?"
- 4. Choice:** Having control of your part of a situation. For example: "We want you to know that you have choices in this meeting," "If, at any time, you want to leave or take a break please let us know," "Do you prefer to start by hearing from the person who hurt you or would you rather speak first about how you were affected?"
- 5. Chance to Tell Their Story:** Victims need the opportunity to be heard. For example: "We would like to give you the opportunity to tell us about it in any way that you feel most comfortable. No one will interrupt you, contradict you, or judge your story." "Would you be willing to share how this crime has affected you financially, physically, and emotionally?"
- 6. Restitution:** Amends made to the victims. For example: "In what ways can amends be most satisfactorily made to you?" "What kind of reparations would you like completed for you, such as repairing the broken door?" "Is there some community volunteer work that you want to see done in your town or organization?" "I'd like to restate the difference between court-ordered restitution and restitution/reparations agreed upon in this meeting."