

Volunteer Surrogate for Person(s) Harmed

Youth Harm Repair Program

RJP Maine works to ensure that every person harmed has the opportunity to voluntarily participate in the harm repair process. In instances when a person who was harmed declines to engage but does not oppose a process moving forward, RJP Maine engages a surrogate person harmed. This is someone with no direct connection to the specific incident, but can speak to the needs they had based on their own related experience of a similar harm.

Responsibilities of Surrogate for Person Harmed

To Harm Repair Program Participants:

- Have direct or indirect experience with harm related to the harm caused in the assigned case
- Participate in the restorative justice process with a willingness to **speak from their own experience of similar harm** (not represent or act as if they were the party harmed in the assigned case)
- Promote insight into the harm and associated needs, and offer support and accountability towards making things as right as possible for all affected
- Are prepared to respond to restorative questions from their own perspective:
 - What's coming up for you, listening to the description of what happened?
 - What did you think/feel when you experienced something similar?
 - What have you been thinking/feeling since?
 - How has this affected you and others?
 - What has the hardest part been?
 - What do you think the main issues are?
- Maintain respect for the reputations of all involved through a signed confidentiality agreement

To RJP Staff & Team:

- Meets the time commitments to participate in the whole process from preparation session to closing: prep session to discuss details of the case (< 1 hour), restorative process (1-2 hours), and closing circle (1-2 hours)
- Proactively considers their needs and self-care prior to participating in harm repair processes, and checks in with RJP staff on any needs that arise
- Is invited (not required) to attend Foundations training

RJP Staff Support for Surrogate

- Schedules time with the surrogate to discuss the role, harm involved in the case, and overview of the process prior to a commitment from the surrogate to volunteer for the case
- Checks in throughout the processes to ensure surrogate needs are met; proactively emphasizes strategies for self-care, safety, and comfort
- Makes adjustments to participation to address any needs that may arise