

Juvenile Victim Offender Mediation

Victim-Offender Mediation is a communication process, between the offender and a victim that is facilitated by a professionally trained third neutral party known as a mediator. During the process issues such as the emotional and information needs of the victim are addressed, empowering the victim with a voice in the reparation of the situation. This process works to develop victim empathy and accountability of the offender. Together the victim and offender with the assistance of the mediators develop a restitution plan that holds the offender financially accountable for the damages they have caused and consider sanctions to assist in reparation of the emotional losses to make amends. If the offender does not comply with the mediated agreement, further court – imposed sanctions are consequences the offender will face.

The primary goals of Juvenile victim-offender mediation are based upon the principles of the humanistic balanced approach to restorative justice. The process realistically promotes enhanced community safety through allowing the victims to have a voice in the reparation of a crime and prevention of future crimes. The process also provided increased competency skills for both the victim and the offender and holds offenders directly accountable for the harm caused by illegal acts. This process is designed to seek a balance between an effective juvenile system and members of the community. Addressing three major objectives and providing the answers to such questions as accomplish this: Why the incident happen? Whom did it impact? How can the incident be turned positively around for all involved?

Who Attends The Mediation Sessions?

The participants in these sessions are the mediators, the offender and the victim/s. Parents or guardians are present when the final draft of the mediation agreement is read and signed.