

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE PROCESS

a criminal justice alternative



Dialogue is another way to deal with some criminal cases. Instead of going through the court system, people can meet in a safe and respectful setting to talk about what happened and how to make things right.

Sometimes a prosecutor may suggest dialogue, but joining the process is always your choice.



In dialogue, trained facilitators guide the conversation. Each person gets a chance to tell their story, listen to the other side, and work on an agreement. The focus is not on punishment. Instead, it is on responsibility, understanding, and fixing harm.

A dialogue may help develop an agreement to repair harm, resolve conflict, and guide things going forward. The process can save time, lower stress, and give both parties more control over the outcome.

Complainants who try dialogue:

- express their concerns.
- can ask questions.
- get a say in how things are settled.
- often find dialogue more satisfying than going to court.

For respondents, dialogue provides:

- a chance to be heard and understood.
- an active role in resolving the situation.
- an opportunity to make things better.
- more control than in a court.

For more information, contact:

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