

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES

# VICTIM OFFENDER DIALOGUE

a recovery option for victims



Victims of crime often have unexpressed feelings and unanswered questions. If your goals for recovery include healing and understanding, you might consider victim offender dialogue.

In this process trained facilitators meet individually with offenders and victims and, if appropriate, bring them together for a safe and respectful mediated conversation about what happened and what can be done to help make things better.



**Participation is a choice.** Even if a case is referred for dialogue, both the victim and offender must agree to participate.

**A dialogue gives you the opportunity to:**

- find out more about the offender.
- tell how a crime has impacted you.
- express your thoughts and feelings about the incident.
- get answer only the offender can provide.
- be directly involved in creating an agreement to repair the harm done.

**While not for everyone, victims who meet the offender often say they:**

- are glad they could talk directly with the offender.
- feel more control over their lives.
- got answers to their questions.
- are glad when offenders expressed remorse.
- are happy they participated.

**For more information, contact:**

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