



# Victim Impact Program Victim-Offender Mediation

## VICTIM-OFFENDER MEDIATION

The goal of the Victim-Offender Mediation is to allow the victim of juvenile crime an opportunity to express thoughts and feelings, and obtain an agreement with the offender that is both meaningful and restorative to the victim.

### What is a Victim-Offender Mediation?

A Victim-Offender Mediation is a volunteer process that brings the victim and offender together so they may both address the personal nature of the offense. A Victim-Offender Mediation also gives both parties the opportunity to take part in the reparation process and decide together how restitution should be made to the victim.

### How does the program work in the Juvenile Court System?

Victim-Offender Meetings can take place at any point in the juvenile justice process once the juvenile has admitted to the crime or been found guilty.

### What is the process?

Victim-Offender Mediations are held in comfortable and safe settings at Juvenile Court. Both parties will have the opportunity to speak openly and honestly to each other regarding the event with the Mediator ensuring that respect and safety is maintained at all times. If an agreement is obtained, it is carefully recorded by the Mediator and signed by each party. The Diversion Officer will then monitor the agreement to ensure it is completed.

An agreement is not necessary for every mediation, and may not even be applicable in some cases.

### What are the benefits of the program?

Besides having the opportunity to actively participate in the juvenile justice process, the program benefits the victim, offender, and the community in many different ways.

### Victims:

- Can get answers to questions by speaking directly with the juvenile(s).
- Have the opportunity to express their feelings about the incident and state how it affected them.
- Can actively participate in deciding how they will be compensated for the offense.

### Offenders:

- Are held responsible to the victim for their actions in a safe, constructive, and humane manner.
- Have the opportunity to "make things right" by making reparation to the victim.
- Are exposed to a constructive way of handling conflict.
- Obtain a greater level of understanding and empathy for those individuals they harm.

### The Community:

- Is allowed an opportunity for greater creativity in the accountability of juvenile offenders, which often includes community or direct service.
- Is strengthened through the education and practice of constructive resolution techniques.



**For more information on the Victim Impact Program and Victim-Offender Mediation services at Ada County Juvenile Court, contact Victim Services at 208-287-5626.**