

What to Expect

-As a VOD participant you will be expected to sign a consent form.

-The process can move slowly time wise, frequently involving interviewing/note taking session one week with the juvenile offender, followed by a session later with the survivor of the crime.

-The process can be emotionally draining and bring back thoughts/feelings which revive memories of those unfortunate times after the crime.

-Some friends and family members may question why you would want to go through the process.

-The average length of the preparation phase to actual meeting for a DYS Dialogue process is between 8-12 months.

-As a victim you are not “expected” to forgive your juvenile offender.

-As a juvenile offender you may desire to apologize for the harm caused and be forgiven. However, you may not be forgiven by your victim.

-The process can be terminated by the juvenile offender, the survivor, or the Dialogue Facilitators at any time, for any reason.

-The juvenile offender’s support person can be a teacher, social worker, Youth Specialist, or family member, community member or mentor.

-The survivor’s support person can be a family member, victim advocate, clergy, friend, therapists or other individuals.

-The face-to-face dialogue can go for an hour or proceed for 5-10 hours, with breaks in-between to refresh and reenergize the participants.

-All facilitators are specially trained



Important Information



The Office of Victim Services is an important component of the Department of Youth Services. It serves as an effective, supportive, and informative resource for victims of crime. The Office provides the following services to victims of juvenile crime:

- information, referral services and advocacy on behalf of victims throughout the juvenile corrections process;
- an opportunity to meet with a representative of the Release Authority;
- information regarding the status of a youth committed to DYS or under parole supervision;
- notification of upcoming reviews, releases, discharges and revocation decisions;
- community education regarding policies and procedures of the Department of Youth Services and the Release Authority;
- referrals to appropriate federal, state, or local community resources, including victim service agencies;
- notification of specific rights including the right to designate a victim representative; and,
- victim input in the form of a Victim Impact Statement.

Mission Statement

The mission statement of the Department of Youth Services - Office of Victim Services – is to balance the scales of justice by giving victims an active voice in the juvenile justice process through effective, supportive, and informative advocacy while working in partnership with corrections, the courts, prosecutors, and victim assistance.



John R. Kasich, Governor
Harvey J. Reed, Director

Office of Victim Services

VICTIM

OFFENDER

DIALOGUE

(VOD)

Office of Victim Services
30 West Spring Street, Fifth Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 1-800-872-3132 Fax: 614-995-0289
E-Mail: Victim.Services@dys.ohio.gov

The Dialogue Process.....

- As a survivor of a crime committed by a juvenile offender you may request a Victim Offender Dialogue through the Office of Victim Services.
- All dialogues are initiated by the survivor who is a Registered Victim with the Office of Victim Services. The juvenile offender cannot initiate a dialogue.
- Preparing for the dialogue may take from several weeks to many years before the meeting between juvenile offender and survivor actually happens.
- The juvenile offender must agree to participate, they cannot be forced to participate. If under the age of eighteen, a parent or guardian of the youth must also provide consent.
- After an application has been completed and submitted by the survivor, it will be carefully reviewed by the Office of Victim Services.
- Dialogues involving domestic violence will not be considered.
- One or two VOD facilitators will meet with both the survivor and juvenile offender individually to prepare for the dialogue.
- Both the survivor and the juvenile offender are encouraged to have a support person as they go through the process.
- Participating in VOD is not a “GET OUT OF JAIL EARLY” card for the juvenile offender.

Why would a juvenile offender want to meet with the survivor of the crime ?

- The juvenile offender may want an opportunity to apologize or express remorse for their actions.
- Meeting to answer the survivors questions is a way the juvenile offender can attempt to make amends.
- Looking into the eyes of the person(s) they have harmed can bring genuine feelings of remorse and be a starting point for turning their lives around.

What is Victim Offender Dialogue ?

Victim Offender Dialogue is a process allowing the survivor(s) of violent crime and the juvenile offender who committed the crime to meet face-to-face. The focus is on the harm done to the survivor and the juvenile offender’s responsibility in addressing the harm.

Call 1-800-872-3132 to inquire about VOD.....

Why would a survivor of crime want to meet with the juvenile offender who committed the crime ?

The many reasons a survivor of a crime might have for meeting with their juvenile offender include:

The juvenile offender may be the only person who has the answers to the question the survivor has. Questions such as Why did you commit the crime? What were my loved ones last words? Was my loved one in pain?

The survivor may want to express their feelings directly to the juvenile offender and explain the impact the crime has had on them.

The survivor may want to know what the juvenile offender is really like and hear what the juvenile offender has experienced since being incarcerated.

