

**If a restitution agreement is reached...**

When you and the victim agree to and sign a written restitution agreement, the referring agency will receive a copy for reference and approval. Fulfilling its terms may become a condition of your probation.

**If no restitution agreement is reached...**

If, for some reason, the parties are unable to agree on a satisfactory resolution, the case will be returned to the referring agency with an explanation of the efforts made by RJMP. From there results vary depending on whether or not the case had been fully adjudicated by the court.



**Information About  
Victim Offender Dialogue**

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Facilitator Name

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Facilitator Phone Number

**Restorative Justice Mediation Program**  
9747 Businesspark Ave., Ste. 215, San Diego, CA 92131  
www.sdrjmp.org office@sdrjmp.org  
Phone: 619-280-1993

**Restorative Justice Mediation Program**  
*Victim Offender Dialogue and Education*  
since 1993

## Victim-Offender Dialogue: A Community Response to Crime

The Restorative Justice Mediation Program (RJMP) is non-profit organization working in San Diego for over 20 years to effectively restore justice in ways not met by the criminal justice system. One of these ways is through the Victim Offender Dialogue Program (VOD).

Victim Offender Dialogue is a **process that engages the primary parties affected by crime** in face-to-face conversation:

- victims and their families,
- offenders and their families, and
- members of the community.

This **allows those with the most at stake in an offense** to:

- identify and put right the wrongs, focus on the harms and needs of the victim, offender and community,
- hold offenders and communities accountable to take active steps to repair the harm, and address the conditions or causes,
- participate actively in the dialogue process.

**Participation in Victim Offender Dialogue helps** because:

- victims are involved in the process and come out satisfied,
- offenders understand how their actions have affected other people and take responsibility for those actions,
- outcomes help to repair the harms done and address the specific reason for the offense,
- victim and offender both gain a sense of closure, and both are reintegrated into the community.

VOD results in making justice more healing and transformative, and reduces the likelihood of future offenses.

Victim Offender dialogue meetings are arranged and led by a neutral, RJMP-trained community volunteer who is present to facilitate dialogue and agreement, not to mediate decisions or impose a settlement.

Cases are referred to RJMP by various agencies of the criminal justice system. Many offenders have found the process helpful in righting the wrong and putting the offense behind them. It will give you the opportunity to:

- Take responsibility for your actions and involvement in the offense.
- Work out a written agreement for the restitution that is due.
- Apologize and make things right with the victim directly.

### Preparation for a Dialogue Meeting

You have a choice to participate in the Victim Offender Dialogue Program. If you choose not to participate, your case will be returned to the referring agency. No dialogue happens without the voluntary participation of all parties. You may choose to bring to the dialogue meeting family members or other people who offer you support.

When a facilitator contacts you, should you choose to participate, you can help to make this a constructive, useful process by:

- Preparing to describe the incident—what happened, why it happened, what it meant to you, and how you feel about it now.
- Being prepared to tell the victim what happened, to share your feelings and answer their questions about the offense, and to listen to what the offense has meant to them.
- Being prepared to present a plan to repair the harm, including restitution.
- Being sure you know the time and place for the meeting. It is very important that everyone be at the meeting place at the agreed time. If you cannot attend, let the volunteer facilitator know well in advance.
- Contacting the volunteer facilitator or the RJMP office if you have further questions or if any issues arise while a resulting restitution agreement is being fulfilled.