



If a restitution agreement is reached...

When you and the offender 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 the offender's 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.

Facilitator Name

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

Information for Crime Victims about Victim Offender Dialogue

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

VOD facilitates a meeting between you and the offender(s) to provide you the opportunity to:

- **Ask questions which may have arisen out of the offense and later experiences.**
- **Express your feelings and opinions about the offense directly to the offender (s).**
- **Work out a plan for restitution or other appropriate agreement.**

Your case has been referred to us by the Probation Department or Public Defender's Office which has determined that this case may be the type that can be facilitated well through the dialogue process.

Participation in our program requires the consent of all parties. The meetings are organized and led by a neutral trained community volunteer, who is present to facilitate communication, not make a decision or impose a settlement.

WHO ARE WE?

The Restorative Justice Mediation Program of San Diego County is a non-profit, non-governmental, organization that was founded in 1993 to provide a community response to crime. We work with local justice sector agencies, schools, and other nonprofits to offer services to crime victims and offenders through programs promoting restorative justice principles. Program policy is overseen by a Board of Directors representing a broad cross-section of the local community.

WHAT DO WE DO?

The VOD program arranges and facilitates meeting between victims and offenders, assists in finding answers to problems arising from the offense, and in developing written restitution agreements. RJMP will help track restitution payments to the victim and work completed by the offender.

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

However, RJMP does not do the following:

- **Supervise the offenders. Supervision remains the responsibility of the probation department.**
- **Enforce restitution agreements. Enforcement of restitution agreements remains with the court and probation department. RJMP does follow your case, however, and keeps probation informed of the offender's progress in completing the terms of agreement. RJMP is available to help out where we can if problems arise in paying restitution.**

Cases are referred to RJMP by various agencies of the criminal justice system. Many victims have found the process helpful in righting the wrong and putting the offense behind them.

PREPARING 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 who will decide what alternatives would be appropriate for the offender. No dialogue happens without the voluntary participation of all parties.

Should you choose to participate, you may bring to the dialogue meeting family members or other people who offer you support. You can help to make this a constructive process by doing the following:

- Prepare 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 offender 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.
- Let the facilitator know as soon as possible if you find the time that has been arranged for a meeting not convenient for you or if you cannot attend.
- Contact 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, such as unreasonable delays in payment.