
NOT AVAILABLE ON LINE

ANNOTATION:

DESIGN: This qualitative in-depth study focused on seven mediations involving serious offenses. These include: manslaughter, attempted murder, breaking and entering and attempted murder, and uncharged burglary. Interviews were conducted with offenders, victims, victim advocates, offender counselors, and mediators. A year to two years had elapsed between the mediation and the interviews.

PROCESS: Preparation was cited as the single most important factor contributing to the success of mediation. Telephone conversation, counseling sessions, pre-mediation meetings and self-preparation helped pave the way for useful mediation sessions.

SATISFACTION: Participants in six of seven mediations considered the process to be successful. Ironically, the least serious, the uncharged burglary case, was the least satisfying for victim and offender. Victims were concerned about what the offender was doing to change his behavior.

IMPACT: All the victims reported mediation to be important for closure. One victim stated: "I was consumed with hate and rage and was worried what I would do when he got out." Many indicated their own rage and hate was interfering with daily functioning. Another indicated that after the mediation her children could sleep without the light on. Victims welcomed the opportunity to tell their story and to confront the person who had ushered tragedy into their lives. One male victim declared that, "The mediation saved my life, and I am so thankful I was able to participate."

Offenders noted that seeing the victim had personalized the event. They often expressed surprise at how their actions affected so many more people than they had realized. They also indicated that it was helpful for them to tell the victims they were sorry.

VOM
JUVENILES
VIOLENT
PROCESS, SATISFACTION, IMPACT
VICTIM DATA, OFFENDER DATA
SURVEY
US