
ANNOTATION:

DESIGN: STUDY in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area where, between 1985 and 1986, 183 offenders and 179 victims were referred to VORPs for service. Offenses were chiefly property offenses.

PARTICIPATION RATES: Fifty-four percent of the victims and 64% of the offenders participated in mediation.

RESTITUTION: One hundred and twenty eight agreements were reached. Of these, seventy-nine percent were completed.

REASONS AND SATISFACTION: A smaller sub-sample of victims (31) and offenders (11) was interviewed regarding their satisfaction. While restitution was initially the reason why victims chose to participate, what they found most helpful about the process was meeting the offender face-to-face. One victim noted: "It put my mind at ease because we had conjured up the big thugs breaking in . . . they were small kids." Offenders pointed out their own initial uneasiness with the process. One offender reported, "When I came to the meeting, I expected the victim to be more harsh with me, but they were very considerate and I appreciated that."

FAIRNESS: Ninety-three percent of victims felt the agreement was fair; 100% of the offenders reported the same. Nearly all the participants believed they were treated fairly. A victim stated: "we were both allowed to speak. . . he (mediator) didn't put words into anybody's mouth." And another indicated: "he (mediator) just let us negotiate and gave us some guidance." Eighty six percent of the victims reported that they found it helpful to meet with the offender.

The article addresses many practical issues of mediation, and the author begins to flesh out a "typology of victim perspectives of fairness."

VOM
JUVENILE
PROPERTY
PARTICIPATION RATES, REASONS, SATISFACTION, FAIRNESS, RESTITUTION
VICTIM DATA, OFFENDER DATA
SURVEY, RECORD DATA
US