



Center for Restorative Justice & Peacemaking

An International Resource Center in Support of Restorative Justice Dialogue, Research and Training

Victim Offender Mediation Continuum: *From Least to Most Restorative Impact*

Least Restorative Impact <i>Agreement-Driven: Offender Focus</i>	Most Restorative Impact <i>Dialogue-Driven: Victim Sensitive</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entire focus is upon determining the amount of financial restitution to be paid, with no opportunity to talk directly about the full impact of the crime upon the victim and the community, as well as the offender • No separate preparation meetings with the victim and offender prior to bringing the parties together • Victims not given choice of where they would feel the most comfortable and safe to meet, or whom they would like to be present • Victims given only written notice to appear for mediation session at pre-set time, with no preparation • Mediator or facilitator describes the offense and offender then speaks, with the victim simply asking a few questions or simply responding to questions of the mediator • Highly directive style of mediation or facilitation with the mediator talking most of the time, continually asking both the victim and offender questions, but little if any direct dialogue between the involved parties • Low tolerance of moments of silence or expression of feelings • Voluntary for victim but required of offender whether or not they even take responsibility • Settlement-driven and very brief (10-15 minutes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary focus is upon providing an opportunity for victims and offenders to directly talk to each other, to allow victims to express the full impact of the crime upon their life and to receive answers to important questions they have, to allow offenders to learn the real human impact of their behavior and take direct responsibility for making things right • Restitution is important, but secondary to the talking about the impact of the crime • Victims are continually given choices throughout the process: where to meet, who they would like to be present, etc. • Separate preparation meetings with the victim and offender prior to bringing them together, with emphasis upon <u>listening</u> to how the crime has affected them, <u>identifying</u> their needs and <u>preparing</u> them for the mediation or conference session • Non-directive style of mediation or facilitation with mediator not talking most of the time, high tolerance of silence and use of a humanistic or transformative mediation model • High tolerance for expression of feelings and full impact of crime • Voluntary for victim and offender • Trained community volunteers serve as mediators or co-mediators along with agency staff • Dialogue-driven and typically about an hour in length (or longer)