



Victim-offender mediation a meeting with possibilities!

Victim-offender mediation is a voluntary and informal meeting between the victim of a crime and an offender, together with an impartial mediator. During the meeting the victim is given the opportunity to describe how she or he has been affected by the crime and its consequences and can ask questions of the offender. The offender is given the opportunity to explain how the offence came to be committed and what consequences this has had on his or her life. Victim-offender mediation is for the benefit of both parties. The purpose is to give the victim the opportunity to work through his or her experience and for the offender to gain insight into the consequences of the offence. There is also the possibility to come to an agreement on how the offender may make amends.

Victim-offender mediation is regulated by the Mediation Act (2002:445). The offence to be mediated must first have been reported to the police and the offender must have acknowledged his or her guilt. Mediation can take place before, during or after a trial and plays a complementary role in relation to the penal process.

Victim-offender mediation is often organised within the municipalities and is conducted in the form of a cooperation between the social services, the police and the prosecutor.

From the 1st of January 2008 it will be obligatory for municipalities to be able to offer victim-offender mediation to all offenders under the age of 21.

