



Victim-offender Mediation Unit

Reparative Mediation

Reparative mediation occurs post-conviction but pre-sentence; it is voluntary and can occur face-to-face or indirectly.

When a court in Western Australia requests reparative mediation it then forms part of that court's sentencing process - but is not an alternative to it (it is not a 'court diversion' program).

Reparative mediation allows offenders and victims to discuss the consequences of an offence with the assistance of a neutral mediator.

Mediation gives an offender a chance to make amends for the offence in a way that is meaningful to the victim.

Participation in mediation may be taken into consideration by a court at sentencing.

Outcomes may include:

- An apology - verbal or written from the offender.
- An explanation for the offence.
- Return of property.
- Monetary compensation.

Benefits

- Victims have an opportunity to express their views about the offence/s and its consequences, and to hear the offender's response.
- Victims who have experienced financial losses can request reimbursement.
- A victim's view of the offence/s will be made known to the court.
- Offenders have an opportunity to apologise and make amends for their offending before being sentenced.
- An offender's positive engagement in reparative mediation may be of benefit to them at sentence.
- It can assist to alleviate ongoing tensions in a family or community.

Reparative mediation may not always be successful but, regardless of its outcome, a report detailing the reparative mediation process and the issues it raised will be provided to the sentencing magistrate or judge.

Contact details:

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VMU is a Statewide service. By contacting the Perth office, you can be directed to the appropriate local officer.