



Victim-offender Mediation Unit Protective Conditions Process

Offenders currently serving a sentence for an offence against an identifiable victim are referred to the Victim-offender Mediation Unit (VMU).

The VMU is part of the Office of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime in the Department of Justice and provides information to releasing and supervising authorities.

It makes recommendations about what protective conditions (if any) should be imposed on the offender's supervised order to protect the victim from unwanted contact. Any conditions imposed will only be in place for the duration of the supervised order.

The parties are interviewed separately, so they will not meet during the above process.

A standard protective condition prohibits an offender having any contact with the victim.

This means an offender cannot contact a victim by any means, including:

- Phone calls and text messages.
- Internet, social media and messenger services.
- Face to face.
- Through a third party.
- Mail.
- Email.

Alternative protective conditions that may be recommended:

- Exclusion zones, such as suburb/town, workplace, local shops.
- Additional people to be included, such as family members.
- Restricted contact, for example, by phone only and for a specific purpose.

A victim may also request that no protective conditions be imposed on their behalf.

A request can be made to change these conditions if the parties' circumstances change.

How are protective conditions imposed?

- A releasing authority imposes them on an offender's supervised release order on release from prison (adult) or detention (young person).
- A Community Corrections Officer or Youth Justice Officer issues a direction to an offender or young person on a community supervision order.

What happens if protective conditions are breached?

- Alleged breaches should be reported to the VMU, with any available evidence.
- The VMU may advise the relevant releasing and supervising authorities.
- Those authorities may choose to return an offender to custody if they are on a supervised release order, or to court for those on community supervision orders.

Contact details:

Perth Office
Level 10, Golden Square
32 St Georges Terrace Perth WA 6000
Phone 9425 3200 Freecall 1800 214 655
Email vmu@justice.wa.gov.au

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