

HOW SUCCESSFUL IS JUVENILE OFFENDER- VICTIM MEDIATION?

Recent Studies show that Juvenile Offender-Victim Mediation programs:

- Lower the chance that the offender will commit another crime.
- Repair harm and rebuild relationships among offenders, individual victims, and the community;
- Have a higher rate of completion of restitution agreements; and
- Have a higher rate of satisfaction with the criminal justice system reported by all parties involved.

Studies show over 95% of the cases mediated result in a written restitution agreement. Over 90% of the restitution agreements were completed within one year. While the rate of payment for court-ordered restitution (nationally) is often only 20% to 30%, the rate of payment for mediated restitution agreements often exceeds 95%.

The number of Juvenile Offender-Victim Mediation Programs has increased significantly since 1990. The increase is a result of their success in dealing with the criminal and/or disruptive behavior of our youth. There are now more than 1200 programs in the United States and around the world.

MULTI-OPTION ADR PROJECT
JUVENILE MEDIATION PROGRAM
222 PAUL SCANNELL DRIVE
SAN MATEO, CA 94402

Multi-Option ADR Project

A PARTNERSHIP OF THE SAN MATEO
COURT, BAR & COMMUNITY



JUVENILE MEDIATION PROGRAM
JUVENILE OFFENDER AND
VICTIM MEDIATION

BACKGROUND

The Juvenile Mediation Program recognizes the importance of community involvement in preventing crime, supporting the victim, and encouraging offender rehabilitation with positive community values. The Program provides supplemental and alternative responses to criminal and disruptive behavior committed by youth offenders. The program model is based upon the principles of "Restorative Justice."

WHAT IS JUVENILE OFFENDER-VICTIM MEDIATION?

Juvenile Offender-Victim Mediation encourages active involvement in the justice process for victims, the community, and the offender by providing an opportunity to:

- **Voluntarily participate** in a process that identifies the harm resulting from the crime;
- **Agree** how to make things as right as possible; and
- **Hold** the offender personally accountable for repairing the harm caused by his or her crime.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN MEDIATION

The mediation meeting is a place where victims of crimes and youth offenders can talk face-to-face in a safe, fair and neutral setting in the presence of trained mediators.

■ VICTIMS CAN:

Talk with the offender about what happened

Express their frustrations and concerns

Ask questions about the crime that only the offender may have the answers to

Have direct involvement in deciding how their losses will be covered and/or how the offender can make things as right as possible.

■ YOUTH OFFENDERS:

Can take responsibility for their actions by facing their victims

Can be personally accountable to their victims

Can have an active role in creating an acceptable restitution agreement to make things right.

■ THE MEDIATORS:

Help the participants explore and negotiate their own solutions

Do not give legal advice or make decisions

Are volunteers with the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center

Provide services at no cost to either party.

HOW CASES GET TO US

Referrals to the program may be made at any time. Early intervention, however, may prevent a first time offender from entering the formal justice system altogether.

- **Pre-petition cases** (cases that have not yet been filed in court) are referred by school officials, law enforcement, probation, victim advocates, youth diversion programs and self referrals.
- **Staff from diversion programs** (such as Youth Services Bureau, North Peninsula Family Alternatives, or Youth and Family Enrichment Services) can refer youth to mediation during the program or after its completion.
- **Post-petition cases** (cases filed in court) may be referred by: the judge, probation officers, district attorneys, defense attorneys, victims, victim advocates, affected community members and youth service organizations.

For referral information, please contact the program manager at:

Juvenile Mediation Program
222 Paul Scannell Drive
San Mateo, CA 94402
(650) 312-5269

Or, visit our website at
www.sanmateocourt.org/adr.