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http://www.bgbw.landbw.de/pb/L.de/Startseite/Service/Taeter-Opfer-Ausgleich+_+Victim-offender+mediation

Images: Agency photos. Posed by a model.



Have a Say in Victim-Offender Mediation.



Baden-Württemberg

BEWÄHRUNGS- UND RICHTSHILFE

Bewährungs- und Gerichtshilfe Baden-Württemberg


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 Victim-offender mediation provides the opportunity to settle a conflict out of court as part of criminal proceedings.

Victim-offender mediation aims to work out a fair and viable solution to the conflict with all parties involved.

Depending on the type and extent of the offence, this can range from an apology to compensation payments. If an agreement is reached, the agreements made can be recorded in writing. Victim-offender mediation, which can generally be used for any type of offence, is only possible if all parties to the conflict participate voluntarily. The public prosecutor's office or the court can order victim-offender mediation at any stage of the criminal proceedings.

WHAT HAPPENS IN VICTIM-OFFENDER MEDIATION?

As a rule, a mediator holds individual conversations with all parties involved to prepare the mediation. Both the victim as well as the accused person can have a person they trust join the preliminary meeting.

The aim of the mediation meeting is to agree on an appropriate form of compensation, both in emotional and material terms. The mediator assumes the role of an impartial third party.

POSSIBILITIES OF SUCCESSFUL VICTIM-OFFENDER MEDIATION FOR VICTIMS:

- There is an opportunity to talk about the effects of the crime.
- The perpetrator takes responsibility for their actions and deals with the consequences.
- Compensation can be agreed (in writing).

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESSFUL VICTIM-OFFENDER MEDIATION FOR OFFENDERS:

- There is an opportunity to deal with the incident and its causes and consequences and to take responsibility for it.
- The perpetrator can make amends and apologize for his or her actions.
- The result of the victim-offender mediation is reported to the public prosecutor's office or the court and is included in the further decision – if applicable, the sentence may be reduced or waived.

The legal basis for victim-offender mediation can be found in Section 46a of the German Criminal Code (StGB) and in Sections 155a, 155b and 153a of the Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO).

ABOUT US

The Bewährungs- und Gerichtshilfe Baden-Württemberg (BGBW) is a state-run institution under public law. The BGBW's tasks comprise probation assistance, court assistance and victim-offender mediation. It has its headquarters in Stuttgart. There are nine facilities across the state, as well as other outposts and communication stations. This ensures that clients receive support close to home.

Further information and contact details for contact partners can also be found on our website:
www.bgbw.landbw.de

