

## General Questions

### Where do mediations take place?

We strive to hold mediations in a neutral, accessible location. If desired and possible, mediations take place in the participants' home community.

### Who will be present at the mediation?

The mediation will consist of two trained mediators and persons directly in conflict. In some cases, supporters and others impacted by the conflict participate as well.

### Who are your mediators?

Our mediators are community volunteers who have completed training in Transformative Mediation and receive ongoing training and supervision. The volunteers typically do mediations in pairs.

### How are decisions made?

All people present in the VORP process will provide input into the outcomes and make decisions together.

VORP is not a process in which mediators make decisions or tell participants what they are to do.

***Funding for Adult Mediation is provided through a grant from***



**There is no fee to participate.**



***"Serving the Oxford community  
for 35 years"***

**Our Vision is to enable youth and adults to demonstrate responsibility for their actions through community work, education, skill development, victim awareness and lifestyle choices.**

### **For More Information, Please Contact:**

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# VORP

## **Victim Offender Reconciliation Program**



***Helping Victims and  
Offenders Resolve  
Conflict Arising  
from Crime***



## What is Victim Offender Reconciliation Program?

Based on Restorative Justice principles, VORP brings together those impacted by a crime in a safe manner to share their experiences, discuss and understand the harm that has been caused, and examine meaningful ways to repair that harm and help people move forward.

To participate in the VORP program, the offender must be ready:

- ◆ to demonstrate accountability for their actions
- ◆ to meet with the victim and mediators and actively participate in the mediation process
- ◆ to make amends to the victim and community (if applicable) to help repair the harm they caused

During the mediation, trained facilitators will ensure that everyone has a chance to speak and to listen.

Participation in this program is voluntary.



## How does VORP work?

The Crown Attorney will make a referral to Community Options for Justice (COJ). A worker from COJ will contact all parties to ensure suitability and interest in participating in the VORP program.

Two mediators will meet with you individually to discuss the program and answer questions, and better understand your story, experiences, concerns and desired outcomes. The mediators also meet individually with the other party.

Next, a meeting will take place including the mediators, victim, offender and support persons (if applicable) to discuss everyone's experiences, how they have been impacted, and ways to address the harm that has been caused, through a mutually-acceptable, signed agreement.

A worker from COJ will monitor and assist the offender in completing the agreement. Upon satisfactory completion, in most cases the charge(s) will be withdrawn.

## What if the offender does not complete the program?

If the offender decides not to participate in the program or does not complete the sanctions in the agreement, the file will be returned to the Crown Attorney as incomplete and the offender will have to attend court to formally address the charges.

## General Questions

### Is it safe for participants to meet each other face-to-face?

Ensuring the safety of all participants is our primary consideration. Our agency screens participants individually to assess safety concerns before bringing them together.

Our mediators use strategies and techniques to ensure participants feel safe.

If, after exploring various options, participants or mediators do not feel a face-to-face meeting can be done safely, then the process will not proceed.

### What is meant by "Reconciliation"?

Participants in the program get to decide what is meant by Reconciliation. Our intent is to provide an invitation for people to discuss how they have been impacted by a crime and explore options of how to move forward as effectively as possible. Participants provide input into how things look after the mediation.

### What are the potential benefits of participating for the victim?

Victims are afforded an opportunity for direct involvement in the program; a chance to voice their own experience and needs; have their questions answered; and play a role in the outcome. Many victims find a sense of closure from participating in the mediation process.