DISCLOSURE:

The Victim–Offender Dialogue process cannot be used by offenders in an attempt to obtain an early release from prison or supervision. Participation will not be documented in any of the offender’s files. The New Hampshire Adult Parole Board will not be informed of program participation and all records pertaining to participation will be kept separate from any information provided to the New Hampshire Adult Parole Board.

If you are interested in learning more about Victim–Offender Dialogue, please contact our Victim–Offender Dialogue Coordinator at the NH Department of Corrections:

Office of Victim Services
New Hampshire Dept. of Corrections
P.O. Box 14
Concord, NH 03302

Telephone: (603) 271-1937
Email: Victim.Services@doc.nh.gov
Website: nh.gov/nhdoc

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What is Victim-Offender Dialogue (VOD)?

For victims and survivors, violent crime brings trauma, grief and phases of recovery. To assist in the recovery and healing process, some victims, or surviving family members, of violent crimes may want to meet with the offender. Victim Services can assist in this restorative process through a one-time facilitated dialogue between the victim and the offender in a safe and structured setting.

Victim-Offender Dialogue is a victim-initiated process that only occurs through a great deal of preparation to promote the physical and emotional safety of both parties.

THE DIALOGUE PROCESS

- Requests for Victim-Offender Dialogue must be made through the Office of Victim Services.
- All dialogues are victim-initiated; offenders cannot initiate a dialogue.
- Each case is assigned to one or two trained facilitators who will meet with both the victim and offender individually to prepare for the dialogue.
- It is recommended that both the victim and offender have a support person with them throughout the process.
- There is not a set time frame for completing the dialogue process and progression through the program will vary from case to case.
- Either party can decide to withdraw from the program at any point throughout the process.
- Offenders must agree to participate; they cannot be forced into the process.
- The Victim-Offender Dialogue process cannot be used by offenders in an attempt to obtain an early release from prison or supervision.
- Victim-Offender Dialogue is not for everyone. Each case is carefully reviewed by the Office of Victim Services for appropriateness.

Why would a victim want to meet with their offender?

- They often have questions only the offender can answer.
- Victims may want to tell the offender how their lives have been impacted by the offender’s criminal behavior and how they feel about the crime.
- Victims often want to know about the offender’s life inside the prison or what kind of person they are or have become.

Why would an offender want to meet with the victim?

- Offenders may want the opportunity to apologize to the victims and to express remorse for their actions.
- Answering questions is one way the offender can attempt to make amends to victims.
- Victim-Offender Dialogue is an opportunity for the offender to take responsibility for the full impact of their behavior upon the victim, their family and the community.