



# Victim-offender mediation

Information in plain language.



Baden-Württemberg

BEWÄHRUNGS- UND GERICHTSHILFE

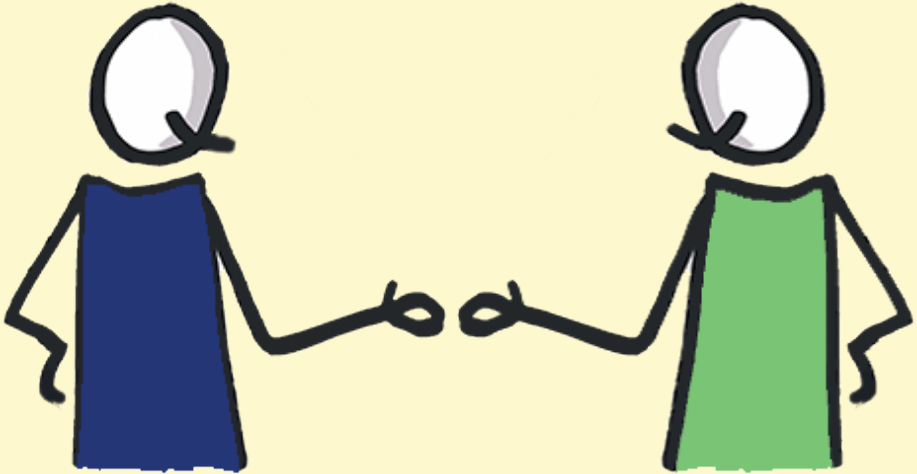


Victim-offender mediation means:

Working with the offender and victim without a court of law to reach an agreement.

Victim-offender mediation is a long word.

Its short name is: VOM.



The aim of VOM is to reach an agreement between the offender and victim.

A VOM can only be made if both parties agree.

For example:

- An apology
- A compensation payment

The agreement will be written down.

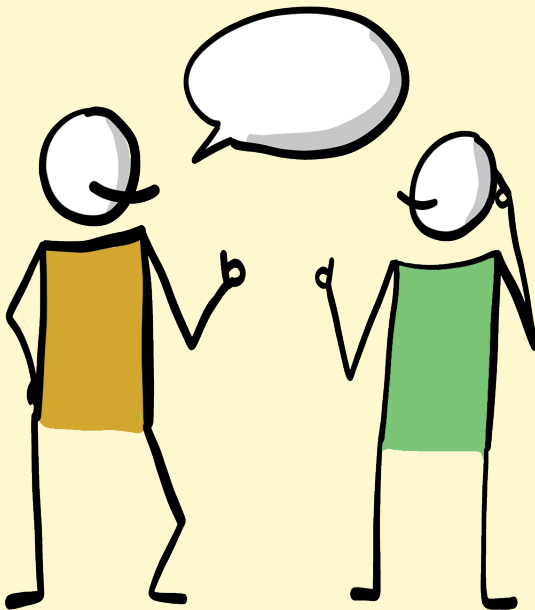
## What happens during victim-offender mediation?

There is a mediator.

A mediator is an intermediary.

They are neutral.

They talk to the offender and the victim.



They talk to each of them individually.

Then everyone talks together.

This is called: A mediation discussion.

The mediation discussion is about reaching an agreement.

Both offender and victim are allowed to take a lawyer or trusted person in with them.

### **Opportunities for the victim**

1. There will be a chance to talk about the crime and the effects it has had.
2. The offender takes responsibility and deals with the effects it has had.
3. An agreement can be reached.  
For example, a compensation payment.

### **Opportunities for the offender**

1. An agreement will be reached outside the court.  
This means that a conviction can often be avoided.
2. The offender can make amends.
3. It can lead to a lesser sentence in a court of law.

If there is no agreement, the court must be told.

The public prosecutors must also be told.

The court and public prosecutors decide what happens next.

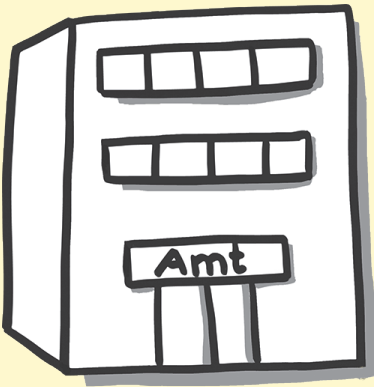
## About us

The Bewährungs- und Gerichts-Hilfe

Baden-Württemberg is an authority.

Because that's a long word, its short title is: BGBW.

The tasks of the BGBW are:



- Helping with probation
- Helping in court
- Reaching an agreement between the offender and victim without a court of law.

This is called:


Victim-offender mediation

The BGBW is present throughout Baden-Württemberg.

So we will be near you too!

You can find more information and contact details on the Internet: [www.bgbw.landbw.de](http://www.bgbw.landbw.de)

 [facebook.com/bgbwinfo](https://facebook.com/bgbwinfo)

 [xing.to/bgbwinfo](https://xing.to/bgbwinfo)

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