



Understanding VOD

Victim-Offender Dialogue (VOD) is a completely voluntary process, allowing either party to withdraw at any time. Only survivors have the ability to initiate dialogue with the individual who caused harm. If the incarcerated individual agrees to participate, both parties will work with a facilitator to prepare for the discussion.

This preparation involves open conversations without prescribed guidelines or scripts, creating space to explore feelings and intentions before direct communication. While VOD can be a meaningful step toward healing, it may not be appropriate or feasible in all cases, and there is no set time frame for completion.

About Us

The Victim Services Program provides consultative support and direct services to crime victim-survivors when the offender in their case is incarcerated and/or being supervised in the community by the DOC.

The Victim Services Program maintains a dedicated staff of Victim Services Specialists (VSS) whose primary focus is to provide trauma-informed advocacy and support to individuals who have been most impacted by crime.



“A chance to reclaim your voice and share your truth”

Contact Us



1-888-810-1847



ahs.docvictimservices@vermont.gov



doc.vermont.gov/content/services-victims



Corrections Victim Services Program

280 State Dr.

NOB 2 South

Waterbury, VT 05671-2000



Restoring Hope and Transparency for Survivors of Crimes

Victim - Offender Dialogue

(VOD)

doc.vermont.gov/content/services-victims

Understanding VOD is not

a process that should compromise the safety of either party. It does not guarantee reconciliation between the survivor and incarcerated individual, nor does it ensure that forgiveness will be part of the journey.

Additionally, VOD does not serve as an opportunity for incarcerated individuals to seek early release, request additional hearings, or receive consideration for parole.



An incarcerated individual may choose to meet with a survivor,

as an opportunity to express emotions like guilt, shame and remorse, to address survivor's questions, and to share their perspective on the crime and its impacts.

A survivor may choose to meet with an incarcerated individual,

as an opportunity to express emotions like grief, shock, and anger, to convey the lasting impact of the harm caused, and to seek understanding of the person's decisions and motivations.