



Perspectief
herstelbemiddeling

Victim Offender Mediation

Information for perpetrators
and offenders of a crime

Perhaps you sometimes think about the crime you committed and the suffering it caused to the victim. You may feel guilty or sorry, or you wonder how the victim is doing now. Dealing with these feelings may be very difficult. Contact with the victim may help you and will allow you to make a positive start in your life. A [Perspectief Herstelbemiddeling](#) mediator supervises this contact. Information about how contact can be helpful to you and about the mediation procedure can be found below.

How can mediation be helpful to you?

How contact with the victim may be helpful is different for everyone. In our experience, many offenders feel relieved after having been in contact with the victim. You can answer questions and tell him or her what made you commit the crime. You can show a different side of yourself. And it may be good for you if you help the victim to deal with the event. It gives you the opportunity to make amends for what you did. And perhaps the contact with the victim will prevent you from reoffending.

How does Victim Offender Mediation work?

There are various ways for you to be in contact with the other party. In all forms of contact, you will receive personal guidance from a [Perspectief Herstelbemiddeling](#) mediator. Three examples:

- [You have a meeting with the victim](#). The mediator prepares this meeting together with you and will do the same with the other person. The mediator will attend the meeting between you and the victim.
- [You write a letter](#); he or she may answer your letter.
- [Exchange of messages](#) through the mediator. You do not meet the other party. The victim informs the mediator of what he or she wants to say or ask you. You give your reply or answer to the mediator, who passes it on.

During a preparatory conversation with the mediator, you will discuss what it is you want and what is possible in your situation. Of course, the mediator also looks at the victim's wishes.

Three basic rules for mediation between offender and victim

Contact is often emotional, for both parties. [Perspectief Herstelbemiddeling](#) applies three basic rules:

1. **The contact is always confidential.** Everything you discuss with the mediator and the victim remains confidential, unless otherwise agreed between you and the victim. What is discussed will not be included in your criminal file.
2. **The mediation is always on a voluntary basis**, for you and for the victim. Neither party is put under pressure to participate. You and the victim may terminate the mediation at any time.
3. **The mediator is a neutral person.** This means that he or she is there for you as well as for the victim. One of the tasks of the mediator is to assess whether mediation is possible. The mediator will then prepare you and the victim for this as well as possible.

Mediation by [Perspectief Herstelbemiddeling](#) is always free of charge for the parties involved.

How to register?

You can register via the registration form at www.perspectiefherstelbemiddeling.nl. If you want, someone else may register you, for example a counsellor from a probation organisation or other agency. If you are in a Dutch prison now, you can register via a mentor or a spiritual counsellor.

After the registration

After the registration, a [Perspectief Herstelbemiddeling](#) mediator will make an appointment. You will talk about why you want mediation and discuss your expectations. If you still want to establish contact, the mediator will contact the other party. The contact will go ahead if the mediator believes that it can proceed in a good way. In that case, the mediator will prepare for this together with you and together with the victim.

Would you like more information?

More information can be found on www.perspectiefherstelbemiddeling.nl

You can also ask your questions to a [Perspectief Herstelbemiddeling](#) staff member. We can be reached on working days at +31(0)30-2340045. Or send an e-mail to info@perspectiefherstelbemiddeling.nl

Perspectief Herstelbemiddeling is assigned by the Ministry for Justice and Security as the Dutch organisation for Victim Offender Mediation.

