



Perspectief
herstelbemiddeling

Victim Offender Mediation Information for victims of a crime

You were a victim of a crime that was committed recently or sometime ago. A crime may have serious consequences for you. Maybe you think about it a lot, you have questions, or you are more afraid now than before the crime. Maybe you only want to forget the event, but you cannot. Contact with the offender* may help you come to terms with the crime. A Perspectief Herstelbemiddeling mediator will help you in this contact. Information about how contact can be helpful to you and the mediation procedure can be found below.

How can mediation be helpful to you?

How contact with the other party may be helpful is different for everyone. In our experience, contact with the offender helps many victims to come to terms with the crime. For example, they have questions and would like to be given the opportunity to ask these questions. Sometimes, they are afraid to come across the offender. The contact often reduces this fear. For others, it mostly feels good when they can tell the other party what the crime did to them. He or she may tell you what happened, and why. It may not only be helpful to yourself; if an offender has been in contact with the victim, it reduces his chances of reoffending. Over 90 percent of victims say contact with the offender has helped them.

How does Victim Offender Mediation work?

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

- **You have a meeting.** The mediator prepares this meeting together with you and will do the same with the offender. The mediator will attend the meeting.
- **You write a letter** to the offender, or he/she writes you a letter.
- **Exchange of messages through the mediator.** You do not meet the offender. You inform the mediator of what you want to ask or say. The offender gives his or her reply to the mediator, who passes it on to you.

Three basic rules for mediation between victim and offender

Contact between the victim and the offender 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 offender remains confidential, unless you and the offender agree otherwise.
2. **The mediation is always on a voluntary basis, for both.** Neither party is put under pressure to participate. You and the offender may end the mediation at any time.
3. **The mediator is independent and neutral.** This means that he or she is there for you as well as for the offender. One of the tasks of the mediator is to assess whether mediation is possible. The mediator will then prepare you and the offender for this as well as possible.

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

How to register?

You can register through the registration form at www.perspectiefherstelbemiddeling.nl. If you want, someone else may register you, for example a staff member of Victim Support Netherlands or other agency. In case the offender registered for mediation, you will receive a letter. In this letter we let you know that an offender wants to come into contact with you. And we ask you if you want to consider your participation.

After the registration

After the registration, a [Perspectief Herstelbemiddeling](#) mediator will make an appointment with you. You will talk about why you want mediation and about your expectations. If you still want to establish contact, the mediator will contact the other party. More than one in two offenders are prepared to participate in the mediation.

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

*you can also read perpetrator