

The Process:

A victim/survivor-centered approach

The Facilitated Dialogue Program (FDP) is a victim/survivor-initiated and victim/survivor-driven process. Victim/survivors must contact the Department of Corrections (ODOC) Victim Services Office to express interest in the program.

All requests for dialogue are carefully assessed by ODOC Victim Services in collaboration with the Advisory Committee to determine if the case is appropriate to move forward. If accepted, two facilitators are assigned to arrange individual meetings with both the victim/survivor and offender to prepare for the meeting. After the dialogue occurs, the facilitators will follow-up with all participants.

There is no set time frame for completing the dialogue process. The dialogue process varies for each case and is dependent upon all parties' readiness to meet. The victim/survivor or offender can stop the process at any time if either party does not wish to continue. In rare cases, the program may suspend the process.

Location of the Dialogue

All offenders involved with the Facilitated Dialogue Program must be incarcerated in an Oregon Department of Corrections or Oregon Youth Authority facility. Therefore, dialogues will take place in a private room inside a state correctional facility. For victims/survivors, preparatory meetings with facilitators leading up to the dialogue meeting will be held wherever the victim/survivor feels comfortable and safe. Sometimes meetings with the facilitators occur at the victim/survivor's home or at the office of the victim/survivor's counselor. Preparatory meetings with the offender will be held in the state correctional facility where the offender is housed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you are interested in meeting with or contacting the offender who committed the crime, contact the Oregon Department of Corrections Victim Services Office for more information about the Facilitated Dialogue Program for Victims/Survivors of violent crime.

**1-888-749-8080 or
1-541-922-6091**

Oregon Department Of Corrections
Victim Services

Facilitated Dialogue Program For Victims of
Serious and Violent Crime



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PROGRAM

In January 1999, The Coalition of Oregon Victim Offender Mediation Programs (COVOMP) decided to explore the possibility of providing serious and violent crime dialogue in Oregon. For the next several years, a group of mediators, victim advocates, educators, criminal justice employees and others developed a process unique to Oregon. In 2004, the Fraser Region Community Justice Initiatives Association of British Columbia trained sixteen volunteer facilitators and the Facilitated Dialogue Program was born giving victims a chance to communicate with their incarcerated offender in a safe and secure way. The program is administered by the Oregon Department of Corrections.

What is Facilitated Dialogue?

Facilitated Dialogue is a process involving a victim/survivor of violent crime and the offender(s) who committed the crime. Victims/survivors are able to let the offender know how the crime has affected their lives and ask questions to which they have never been given answers. Not only does the program give crime victims a chance to meet with the offender, it also allows victims the opportunity to hear the offender recount the crime in his/her own words and accept responsibility. It is an opportunity for the offender to recognize the real person they have hurt and hear from the victim/survivor, the real consequences of the crime. An offender's participation in the facilitated dialogue does not impact his/her sentence or any parole or release considerations.

Who are the Facilitators?

The facilitators are volunteers from the community who have attended a specialized 40 hour training for victim offender facilitated dialogue involving violent crime. Often facilitators have a professional background in counseling, conflict resolution, offender supervision, victim advocacy, or clergy work. The facilitators' job is to prepare the victim/survivor and the offender for the meeting. The facilitators will be present if and when an actual face-to-face meeting takes place. All cases are closely monitored throughout the process by an Advisory Committee comprised of other facilitators, victim advocates, and Facilitated Dialogue Program staff.