

## Who are the facilitators?

The facilitators are staff assigned to the Office of Victim Services and have received specialized training which focuses on the VOD process for victims of violent crime. The facilitator's role is to prepare the victim and the offender independently for the face-to-face meeting. The facilitators will be present during the actual face-to-face meeting and will provide subsequent follow-up with both parties.

## Questions and Answers:

### Q. May I bring someone to the VOD?

A. This will be discussed with the facilitator. A support person is permissible on the day of the VOD but he/she will not be in the room during the face-to-face meeting.

### Q. Where will the VOD take place?

A. The face-to-face meeting will take place in the correctional facility that houses the offender. You will be offered the option to tour the facility prior to the scheduled VOD. Victims must be cleared to enter the facility and will be searched upon entry. A correctional officer will be stationed immediately outside the meeting room for your safety.

### Q. Is the VOD confidential?

A. Yes, all parties involved must sign a confidentiality form prior to moving into the preparation phase.

## Office of Victim Services

***FAIRNESS. RESPECT.  
DIGNITY.***

### Statements from Dialogue Participants:

"It's about accountability, true accountability. You sit here and look at *me* and talk to *me*."

L.W.

"It definitely satisfied something in me."

D.O.

"We looked each other in the eye and just talked"

Pam

## Interested in Participating?

If you are interested in learning more about meeting with the offender who committed the crime, contact the Arizona Department of Corrections, Office of Victim Services for additional information about the Victim Offender Dialogue Program.

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT

CORRECTIONS



OF CORRECTIONS



Office of Victim  
Services

*Victim Offender  
Dialogue Program*



## What is Victim Offender Dialogue?

Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD) is a program that provides an opportunity for eligible victim/survivors to meet with an offender face-to-face in a safe and secure environment with the assistance of a trained facilitator.

The VOD is strictly victim-initiated, victim-driven, and victim-sensitive. A VOD is not a counseling session/therapy or a “quick fix” for all issues associated to the crime.

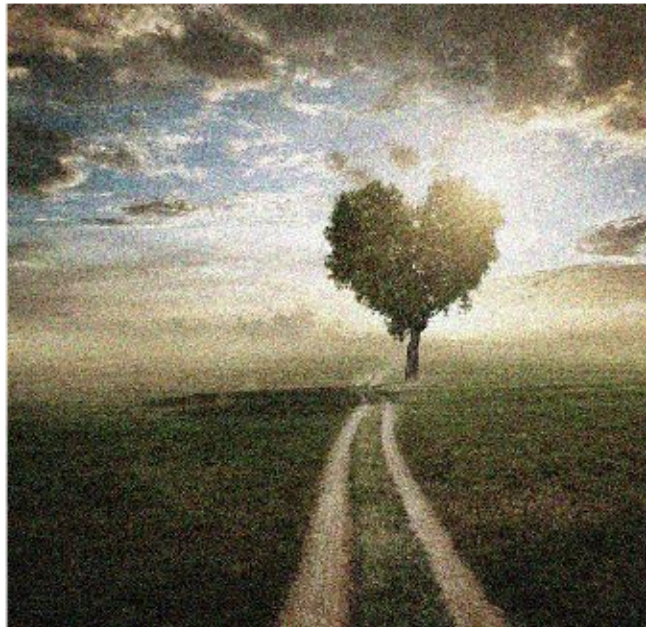
The VOD Program may not be for all victims, but for certain victims/survivors of severe violent crimes it can be an extremely empowering and/or healing experience. Through extensive preparation with a trained facilitator, the VOD can be very helpful in a victim’s journey toward recovery.

**An offender’s participation in the VOD does not impact his/her sentence or any parole or release considerations.**

## Reasons why victims request a VOD:

- To tell the offender the full impact of their crime.
- To tell the offender about their loved one.
- To know if/how the offender has changed since incarceration.
- To get more information about a loved one who was killed.
- The victim wants to ask questions only the offender can answer.
- To determine if the offender is remorseful/accepts responsibility for their crime.
- To offer the offender forgiveness.

Many victims who participate in the VOD find that the preparation, process, and/or face-to-face meeting moves them forward in their journey toward healing.



## Reasons why an offender may agree to participate:

- The offender is remorseful for their crime and wants to apologize to their victims.
- The offender may want the opportunity to answer questions the victim may have surrounding the crime.
- The offender wants to demonstrate personal accountability and wish to make amends.

## What is the process?

The VOD is initiated at the request of the victim by contacting the Office of Victim Services, VOD-Coordinator. The offender’s ADC prison complex warden/deputy warden will be contacted to assess the offender’s suitability and willingness for participation. Once the offender is cleared and agrees to participate, extensive preparation begins. The case will then be assigned to a trained facilitator who will assist the victim throughout the process.

The facilitator will have face-to-face meetings with both parties to prepare them for the VOD. Preparation for the VOD has no set timeframe. The process may take several months to years due to the intense nature of the face-to-face meeting.

**Either party has the right to suspend the VOD process and/or end the process completely at any time.**