

All services of the Probation and Mediation  
Service  
are free of charge.

Address of our workplace:

## Victim-Offender Mediation

Offender integration  
Victim participation  
Community protection

### What is mediation?

Mediation is an out-of-court victim-offender dispute resolution with the participation of the third person – a mediator, who provides both parties with an opportunity to express their feelings, expectations and needs that have arisen in connection with the criminal offense. Mediation also allows to arrange a prompt and acceptable method of compensation. Participation in mediation is voluntary.

### Who carries it out?

Mediation in criminal cases is carried out, according to Act no. 257/2000 Coll., by officers of the Probation and Mediation Service, who have knowledge of relevant legislation, and professional skills in communication and negotiation. PMS centres operate in all judicial districts of the Czech Republic.

### How does it work?

Mediation takes the form of a meeting of the offender and the victim in the presence of a mediator, who plays the role of an unbiased mediator. Joint meetings usually precede individual mediator interviews with the victim and the offender. The meaning and purpose of the mediation hearing is to moderate consequences of crime for the victim, and to motivate offenders to take responsibility for the damage caused by their actions. The mediator allows both parties to express their opinions, needs and interests. Mediation can lead to a common agreement on the settlement of the conflict and compensation for damage. The agreement then serves as a basis for the prosecutor's or judge's decision-making.

### What can mediation bring to victims?

Victims have an opportunity to express and name their needs and interests in connection with moderation of consequences caused by a criminal offense. They can get important information, relating to criminal proceedings, and particularly to compensation for damages. The victim has the opportunity to „acquaint” the offender with the impact of his actions on his life and to assert not only physical, but also interpersonal injury settlement.

### What can mediation bring to offenders?

Offenders have an opportunity to name their obligations and take responsibility in connection with for compensation for damages caused by them, but also to express their needs and interests. In personal dealings with victims, offenders have an „opportunity” to learn what all their actions caused. They may explain circumstances of their behaviour, apologize to the victims and offer them an adequate compensation.

The result of mediation may be taken into consideration by the public prosecutor or by the judge in their decision. They can, for example, conditionally discontinue the prosecution, and propose or approve additional alternative measures or sanctions. In the case of a decision on cessation of criminal proceedings and settlement approval, the offender won't have any criminal record.

### Who can contact the PMS?

The PMS can be contacted by victims, offenders, their relatives, and everybody, who has somehow been offended by a criminal offense. The PMS starts mediation work also on the initiative of public prosecutors, judges, social workers for youth and adults, advocates, police, etc.

### What can be heard during mediation?

**Victim:** „I was injured in a traffic accident.” „I was attacked.” „My bike was stolen.” „My flat was robbed.” ...

#### I feel:

- **injustice** that it was me to whom it had to happen,
- **humiliation** that I became a victim,
- **anger** at the offender, that he hurt me and complicated my life with other consequences,
- **pain**, physical pain of injury, and mental pain of the lived experience,
- **insecurity**, whether I didn't give any cause to the crime,
- **regret** about what had happened,
- **concerns** that it would happen to me again.

#### I would like:

- **to tell the offender**, what his actions caused to me,
- **to hear an explanation and an apology** from the offender,
- **to get an adequate** compensation for damage,
- **to resolve** the whole matter as soon as possible.

**Offender:** „I have caused a traffic accident.” „I have hurt somebody during a fight.” „I was in a gang that robbed a car and a flat.” ...

#### I feel:

- **fear** of the case hearing before the court and the police interrogation,
- **concerns**, that the criminal records will complicate my future personal and work situation,
- **regret** about what had happened,
- **need** to explain the reasons of my actions,
- **need** to apologize and make amends for what I have committed.

#### I would like:

- **to apologize to the victim**, and explain how and why everything had happened,
- **to compensate** for damages,
- **to resolve** the whole matter as soon as possible,
- **to show** by my proactive approach that I care to resolve the situation.

**If you are interested to resolve your situation by mediation, feel free to contact the Probation and Mediation Service.**

