

# *Victim-Offender Dialogue*

Louisiana Department of Public  
Safety and Corrections

*Responding to the needs of those  
harmed by Crime*

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*Victim-Offender Dialogue (VOD) is:*

- Victim requested
- Victim-driven
- Victim-sensitive
- Empowering

*Victim-Offender Dialogue (VOD)* is a face-to-face meeting between the victim of a crime and the person who committed that crime.

- Only a victim/survivor, 18 years of age or older, can initiate a dialogue.
- VOD preparation will not be allowed to overlap appeals, parole, pardon processes or civil suits and may be stopped at any time by the facilitators or either participant.
- The VOD process cannot be used by an offender in an attempt to obtain an early release from prison.



***Why would a victim/survivor want to meet with an offender?***

The justice system often leaves victims with questions that only the offender can answer. Have you ever wanted to ask the person who harmed you a question?

- Have you ever asked yourself, “Why me?”
- What were my child’s last words?
- Was it intentional; did you even consider the harm that you caused?
- Have you ever wanted to tell the offender how your life has been affected by the crime?
- What did I or my family ever do to you?
- Did you even think that you were hurting someone?

**If these are questions that you would like an answer to or have wondered about, please contact the Crime Victims Services Bureau by phone or mail.**

**Crime Victims Services Bureau  
P. O. Box 94304  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804**

**(225) 342-1056 or (888) 342-6110**

**[www.doc.louisiana.gov](http://www.doc.louisiana.gov)**