# Victim-Offender Mediation Training

## July 22-23, 2011, at Missouri State University

**(Friday, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)**

When individuals break the law they harm their victims, society, and themselves. **Restorative justice** is about healing and addressing wrongs that have been committed and repairing the relationships in the community.

### About Victim-Offender Dialogue/Mediation

This training will apply the principles of restorative justice to prepare participants to facilitate structured dialogues between selected juvenile and adult offenders and their victims.

These dialogues offer individuals impacted by crime the opportunity to explain how they have been affected by a crime and to ask the person who committed the offense questions like, "Why me?" and "Will you do this again?" Participation empowers victims, offering them closure and providing peace of mind.

Offenders also benefit from meeting the victims of their crimes. By putting a human face on their offenses these youth and adults realize that their thoughtless acts hurt others, and they often feel empathy for those impacted for the first time. Additionally, these dialogues offer the opportunity for those who commit offenses to make personally meaningful restitution to their victims. Through this process they learn accountability and are reaffirmed as members of the community, thereby decreasing the likelihood that they will re-offend.

### About this Training

This training will cover basic restorative justice principles and will begin to prepare participants to conduct Victim-Offender Mediations with juvenile and adult offenders. No prior mediation experience is necessary to become a volunteer victim-offender mediator with the Center for Dispute Resolution. Additional follow-up training will be provided to program volunteers.

### Free Training

The training fee will be **waived** for individuals who make a 1-year commitment to volunteer (apx. 4-6 hours per month) for the Center for Dispute Resolution's Victim-Offender Mediation programs. The registration fee for non-volunteers is $150.

Space in the training is limited, so interested individuals are encouraged to register as early as possible. Completion of a background check is required for all program volunteers.

### For more information or to register

For more information or to register call (417) 836-8831, email CDR@MissouriState.edu, or visit www.misouristate.edu/cdr.

**The Center for Dispute Resolution** *Training • Workshops • Mediation*
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