

# Victim Impact Program for Youth

## A Program of the Center for Dispute Resolution

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**Purpose:** The Victim Impact Program (VIP) uses storytelling, dialogue, and reflection to help young people understand and explore the impact that crime has on individuals, their family and friends, and their community.

**Structure:** In order to protect the health and safety of youth referred to VIP, our program has been modified to allow youth to take part via phone or video-conference.



A volunteer facilitator will schedule a time to talk with a referred youth (via phone or video-conference). In this session the facilitator and youth will discuss the types of harm that happen when crimes occur, watch a documentary together about a real-life offense and those impacted by it, and explore the different ways harm can look in the real world when kids commit offenses.

**Follow Up:** After the phone call/video-conference a referred youth will write an essay about what they discussed and learned in the session. This essay should be emailed or mailed to the Center for Dispute Resolution and will be shared with the Juvenile Office.

*“Our goal is to provide a **comfortable environment** where kids can come to understand that **crime impacts real people** in concrete, meaningful, and often unanticipated ways. Our hope is that this realization will **deter them from future offenses** and encourage them to consider the **unintended consequences** their actions may have on others.”*

*For More Information:* Contact the Center for Dispute Resolution for more information at 417-836-8831, CDR@MissouriState.edu or online at [www.MissouriState.edu](http://www.MissouriState.edu).



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- A volunteer facilitator will be calling or emailing to set up a time to talk with your child. **Please answer the phone or respond to their texts or emails promptly.** They will work with you to set up a convenient time when they can talk with your child. Let your facilitator know:
  - ◇ The best way to reach you (phone, text, and/or email)
  - ◇ Your mailing address
  - ◇ If your child has access to a computer
  - ◇ If your child has internet access
  
- Help ensure your child has a **quiet location** where they can take part in their scheduled conversation with a program facilitator. This call/video-conference will likely take 60-90 minutes.
  
- At the time of your child's scheduled appointment with the program facilitator, **help ensure they have everything need** for the session, including the **program worksheets** (which will be mailed or emailed to you).
  
- After your child finishes their session, encourage them to **complete their essay** as soon as possible and email it to [CDR@MissouriState.edu](mailto:CDR@MissouriState.edu) or mail it to Missouri State—CDR, 901 S. National, Springfield MO 65804.



### About the Center for Dispute Resolution

The Center for Dispute Resolution (CDR) is an organization located in the Department of Communication and the College of Arts and Letters at Missouri State University. The CDR supports education, programs, training, and research related to managing conflict. Our community outreach includes the VIP program, Juvenile Victim-Offender Mediation, work in the public schools, Family Court programs, and more. The CDR's programs are made possible thanks to the volunteer service of University students and community members.