

Frequently Asked Questions

Why would a victim/survivor want to meet with the resident?

- Victims/survivors are often left with questions that only the perpetrator of the crime can answer, such as “What happened before and during the crime?” “Why did you pick me?” “Was my loved one in pain?”
- Most victims/survivors who participate in VID find that the process moves them forward in their healing journey.
- Some victims want to talk about how their lives have been affected by the crime.
- Victims often want to see for themselves what kind of person the resident has become and whether they are sorry.

Why would a resident want to meet with the victim/survivor?

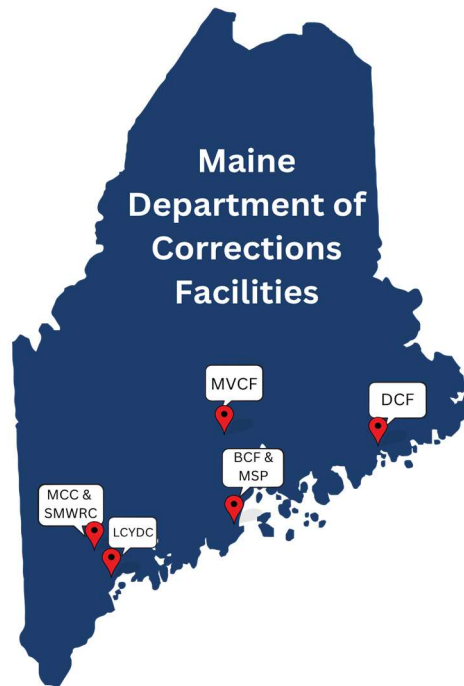
- Some may want the opportunity to apologize and express remorse to the victim/survivor.
- Answering the victim’s questions and providing information about the crime is one way to demonstrate personal accountability and attempt to make amends.

Is VID right for me?

Please contact the Office of Victim Services for specific questions.

www.maine.gov/Corrections/VictimServices

Maine Correctional Facilities



Bolduc Correctional Facility
(Warren)

Downeast Correctional Facility
(Machiasport)

Long Creek Youth Development Center
(South Portland)

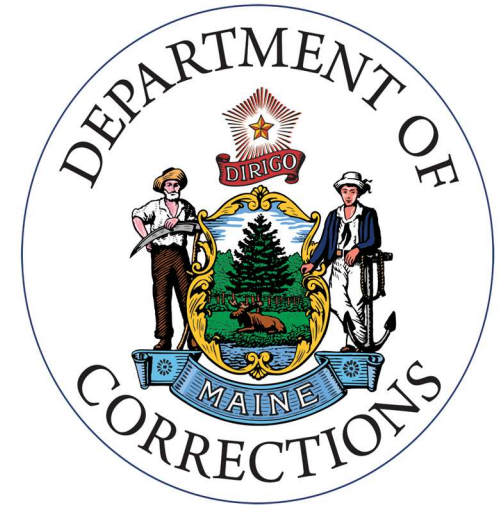
Maine Correctional Center
(Windham)

Maine State Prison
(Warren)

Mountain View Correctional Facility
(Charleston)

Southern Maine Women’s Re-Entry Center
(Windham)

Victim Impact Dialogue Program (VID)



**EMPOWERMENT
STRENGTH
RECOVERY**

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Augusta, ME 04333-0111

Office Hours:
8am-4:30pm, Mon-Fri

Toll Free: 800-968-6909
Main: 207-287-4385
Fax: 207-287-4310



What is Victim Impact Dialogue?

- Victim Impact Dialogue (VID) is a victim-centered, confidential meeting between a victim/survivor and the person who committed harm against them, or in some cases, against their immediate family member in a safe, secure, setting.
- The objective is for the victim/survivor to give voice to the pain and trauma they have experienced and to provide an opportunity to obtain answers and information only the perpetrator of the crime will know.
- When the person who committed the harm listens to victims/survivors speak about the impact the crime has had on them, they can better understand the devastating effects of their actions and take full responsibility for the harm they caused.
- The process is not about forgiveness, compromise, or reconciliation. Although forgiveness may occur, that decision is left to the victim/survivor.

How does the VID process work?

When a victim/survivor requests a VID, if staff recommendations are favorable and the resident agrees, the VID is assigned to a trained facilitator.

The facilitator meets regularly (usually monthly) with the victim/survivor and the resident separately over several months.

RESIDENTS* CANNOT INITIATE A VICTIM IMPACT DIALOGUE.



When the facilitator and participants are ready, a VID meeting is scheduled to take place at the facility where the resident is assigned or at a safe community location.

The VID process is totally voluntary, and any participant may choose to stop the process at any time. Participation in preparation does not guarantee that a dialogue will occur.

How can I participate in VID?

The victim/survivor must initiate the process by calling, writing or emailing the Department of Corrections Victim Services.

Contact information is listed on the front of this brochure and on our website:

www.maine.gov/Corrections/VictimServices

Will a VID impact the sentence or release supervision of the resident?

No, participation does not impact sentencing or any other status of incarceration or supervision. Residents receive no tangible benefits or special privileges for participating and there are no consequences for not participating.

How long does the process take?

A VID is not simply a conversation. It requires a rigorous preparation process with both the victim/survivor and the resident. Over a period of several months, a trained facilitator meets with the victim/survivor to prepare for the actual dialogue. The actual VID meeting is a one-time event.

The fundamental role of the facilitator is to build a relationship of trust and honesty with both participants, allowing each to feel safe and comfortable for a successful dialogue.

The Maine Department of Corrections makes every effort to accommodate VID requests from victims/survivors, subject to conditions and restrictions of the State of Maine and the DOC.



**VID can also include clients that are currently under probation supervision with the Maine Department of Corrections.*