



Protective conditions

Information for victims

VICTIM-OFFENDER MEDIATION UNIT

*voluntary and
independent*

Protective conditions

All offenders currently serving a relevant order for an offence against a victim are referred to the Victim-offender Mediation Unit (VMU).

The VMU is part of the Department of Corrective Services and investigates the issues for each case so that it can recommend contact conditions between you and the offender.

As part of this process, you do **not** need to meet or come face-to-face with the offender.

Usually, after investigating these issues the VMU recommends a standard **'no contact condition'** with the victim.

What is a standard 'no contact condition'?

Under the 'no contact condition', the offender is not allowed any direct or indirect contact with the victim of the offence.

This includes contact via:

- phone
- mail/ post
- email or internet
- fax
- sms messages
- face-to-face
- a third party

Are other options available?

The VMU can help you establish an alternative 'agreement' with the offender that has different conditions to the standard 'no contact condition', which then becomes part of the offender's order.

The standard 'no contact condition' can be changed into an 'agreement' as follows:

1) Extending the 'no contact condition'

Alternative conditions for an 'agreement' might extend to include:

- business premises
- employees
- family members
- mutual friends
- areas frequently visited, eg work or schools



2) Limiting the 'no contact condition'

Alternative conditions for an 'agreement' might allow conditional contact under specific circumstances, such as:

- restricted contact – eg telephone only
- supervised contact – through a neutral person
- contact initiated by one party only
- unrestricted contact

'Agreements' are voluntary and must be agreed to by both yourself and the offender. If you both cannot reach an 'agreement' the standard 'no contact condition' will apply.

If unrestricted contact is agreed to with the offender, the VMU will no longer be involved. It is important that you tell the VMU if you would like any level of contact with the offender, as they may be breaching the standard 'no contact condition' if they have contact with you.

What if I change my mind?

If you decide you are no longer happy with previous contact conditions recommended by the VMU, they may *possibly* be changed.

You need to contact the VMU to request the change, and the VMU will re-investigate the contact issues.

Changes can *only* be made while the offender is currently serving a custodial order, release order from custody or a community-based order.



When are the protective conditions in place?

The VMU will inform you, in writing, when the 'no contact condition' or 'agreement' is in place and what it involves.


When an offender is in custody, the 'no contact condition' or 'agreement' will be active when they are released from custody on a release order.

If the offender is currently subject to a community order, the standard 'no contact condition' or 'agreement' will be in place when they are ordered by their supervising officer to abide by the conditions.

What happens if the offender breaks the conditions?

Protective conditions are a legal part of the offender's order. If the offender breaks the 'no contact condition' or 'agreement', by making contact or acting contrary to the agreement, you can contact the VMU, which will investigate and may take action on your behalf.

This involves informing the relevant releasing or supervisory authority, in which case the offender may be required to return to court, prison or detention.



More information

For more detailed information about mediation, contact:

Metropolitan

Victim-offender Mediation Unit
Level 13, International House
26 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000
T: 9425 3200 F: 9425 3222

Armadale Court House*
109 Jull Street
ARMADALE WA 6112
T: 9399 0700 (not a direct line)

Fremantle Justice Complex
8 Holdsworth Street
FREMANTLE WA 6160
T: 9335 2084 F: 9335 9466

Joondalup Court House
21 Reid Promenade
JOONDALUP WA 6027
T: 9400 0746 F: 9300 2005

Midland Community Justice Services*
U/1, 3 The Crescent
MIDLAND WA 6056
T: 9250 5146 F: 9250 1586

Rockingham Justice Complex
Whitfield Street
ROCKINGHAM WA 6168
T: 9528 4662 F: 9592 3077

Regional

Broome Aboriginal Visitors Scheme
11 Barker Street
BROOME WA 6825
T: 9192 6827 F: 9192 3696

Bunbury Community Justice Service
65 Wittenoom Street
BUNBURY WA 6230
T: 9791 0186 F: 9791 1404

Busselton Justice Complex*
12 Stanley Street
BUSSELTON WA 6280
T: 9754 9678 F: 9754 6300

Geraldton Community Justice Services*
45 Cathedral Avenue
GERALDTON WA 6530
T: 9921 7174 F: 9964 2231

Kalgoorlie Court House
54–68 Brockman Street
KALGOORLIE WA 6430
T: 9021 0279 F: 9021 2005

Kununurra Community Justice Services*
U/17, Corner of Konkerberry Dve and Messmate Way
KUNUNURRA WA 6743
T: 9168 3148 F: 9169 1145
Freecall: 1800 247 023

Pilbara – South Hedland Justice Complex
Hawke Place
SOUTH HEDLAND WA 6722
T: 9172 9306 F: 9172 9330

**These offices operate on a part-time basis.*

Department of Corrective Services

141 St Georges Terrace, PERTH WA 6000
T: 9264 1711 or 13 12 17. www.correctiveservices.wa.gov.au