

Victim/Offender Dialogue & Reconciliation

Nicholson, Catherine (2005). *Why is good restorative practice difficult to implement within referral orders and community based sanctions?* Paper presented at "The Next Step: Building Restorative Communities", IIRP 7th International Conference on Conferencing, Circles and other Restorative Practices, 9-11 November, Manchester, England, UK. Downloaded 9 December 2005.

In this session I would like to start with the background to referral orders, describe some of the difficulties that we have found in achieving good practice, share ideas for change, leaving the last part of the session for discussion. For those of you unfamiliar with the Youth Justice System a referral order is the primary disposal for young offenders pleading guilty and being convicted for the first time. The court will determine the length of the order depending on the seriousness of the offence. An order may last between 3- 12 months. Referral orders may be made for an enormous range of offences – from traffic to assault and burglary. The referral order was the flagship of the 1998 reforms to the Youth Justice System. It was designed around restorative justice principles. (excerpt)

Link: fp.enter.net/restorativepractices/man05/man05_nicholson.pdf

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Delvigne, Alice (2005). *Boundaries in Victim-offender Mediation: Reflections on Mediation in Certain Cases and Crimes*. Paper presented at "The Next Step: Building Restorative Communities", IIRP 7th International Conference on Conferencing, Circles and other Restorative Practices, 9-11 November, Manchester, England, UK. Downloaded 9 December 2005.

Often, we as mediators, have to defend ourselves and the mediation. Critical voices shout that it's impossible to mediate with certain persons, in certain crimes, etc. As mediators, we also notice sometimes difficulties and limitations in our practice. In order to summarize possible difficulties, many examples passed in mind. We will first sum up some difficulties and ask the question if indeed there are cases, persons or crimes, where mediation is impossible. Then we will search for some boundaries and ask the question if mediation, despite of the possible difficulties, might be the best way to react. (excerpt)

Link: fp.enter.net/restorativepractices/man05/man05_delvigne1.pdf