



**HILFE ZUR  
SELBSTHILFE**

Ein Netzwerk sozialer Hilfen

## Victim Support Fund

Victim-offender mediation frequently involves compensation for damages and personal suffering. However, the offender is not always in a position to render an immediate settlement at the full sum.

Projekt Handschlag ("Project Handshake") has a victim support fund from which offenders can receive a limited loan to provide a settlement. In isolated cases, portions of such a loan can also be worked off through community service.

The mediators of Projekt Handschlag decide whether to grant these loans, based on defined guidelines.

## Victim Support Fund

Kreissparkasse Reutlingen

IBAN: DE73 6405 0000 0000 0849 23

BIC: SOLADES1REU

## Address

### Projekt Handschlag

Kaiserstraße 31  
72764 Reutlingen

Telephone 07121–334411

Fax 07121–492456

E-mail [handschlag@hilfezurselbsthilfe.org](mailto:handschlag@hilfezurselbsthilfe.org)

[www.projekt-handschlag.de](http://www.projekt-handschlag.de)



You can reach us by telephone  
Monday to Thursday from 9:00 AM–12:00 PM  
(or leave a message on the answering machine)

### Consultation hours on appointment

## Sponsor

### Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe gGmbH

A social support network

Rommelsbacher Straße 1

72760 Reutlingen

Telephone 07121–387893

Fax 07121–3878948

E-mail [info@hilfezurselbsthilfe.org](mailto:info@hilfezurselbsthilfe.org)

Further information can be found at:

[www.hilfezurselbsthilfe.org](http://www.hilfezurselbsthilfe.org)

Design: [www.burgknecht.de](http://www.burgknecht.de) Photos: Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe gGmbH archive

# Projekt Handschlag ("Project Handshake")

## Victim-offender mediation Regional Court Tübingen



"TOA - Q Nationwide-tested quality"

Our institution has been  
awarded the seal of quality by BAG TOA



## Victim-offender mediation

The goal of victim-offender mediation is to rectify the injustice that arises when a crime is committed.

We seek to give offenders and aggrieved parties the opportunity to reach a settlement over the damage caused and resolve the conflict.

In a joint meeting, we give all parties involved the chance

- ▶ to discuss the incident,
- ▶ seek to resolve the conflict which has arisen,
- ▶ and find a form of settlement that everyone can agree to.

## A chance for both sides

### The victim can

- ▶ make it clear to the offender what the consequences of his/her crime were (damages caused, hurt feelings, aggravation, outrage, etc.),
- ▶ quickly reach a settlement over the damages caused,
- ▶ avoid the nuisance and effort of civil proceedings in the case of material damages.

### The offender can

- ▶ Describe the reasons for his/her conduct and assume responsibility,
- ▶ show that he/she takes the victim's feelings seriously,
- ▶ rectify the situation by providing settling while avoiding additional judicial punishment.

### Offender and victim can

- ▶ put a mutual end to a potentially long-standing conflict,
- ▶ mutually overcome prejudices and achieve reconciliation,
- ▶ avoid unnecessary litigation.

## Our task

We, the employees of Projekt Handschlag, see ourselves as mediators between the parties involved.

If these parties agree to do so in individual meetings, we will arrange an appointment in which the offender and the aggrieved can meet to discuss the incident. A suitable settlement will then be sought, which may consist of the following:

- ▶ an apology
- ▶ symbolic compensation
- ▶ compensation for damages
- ▶ financial compensation for personal suffering
- ▶ and many more possibilities

If all parties involved agree to the result of the compensation, we will write a report to the public prosecutor's office and/or court. The judiciary will then have the option of suspending the proceedings or taking the outcome into consideration during sentencing.