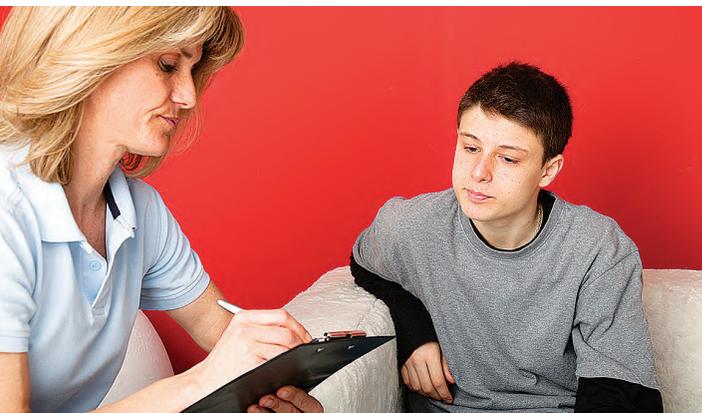


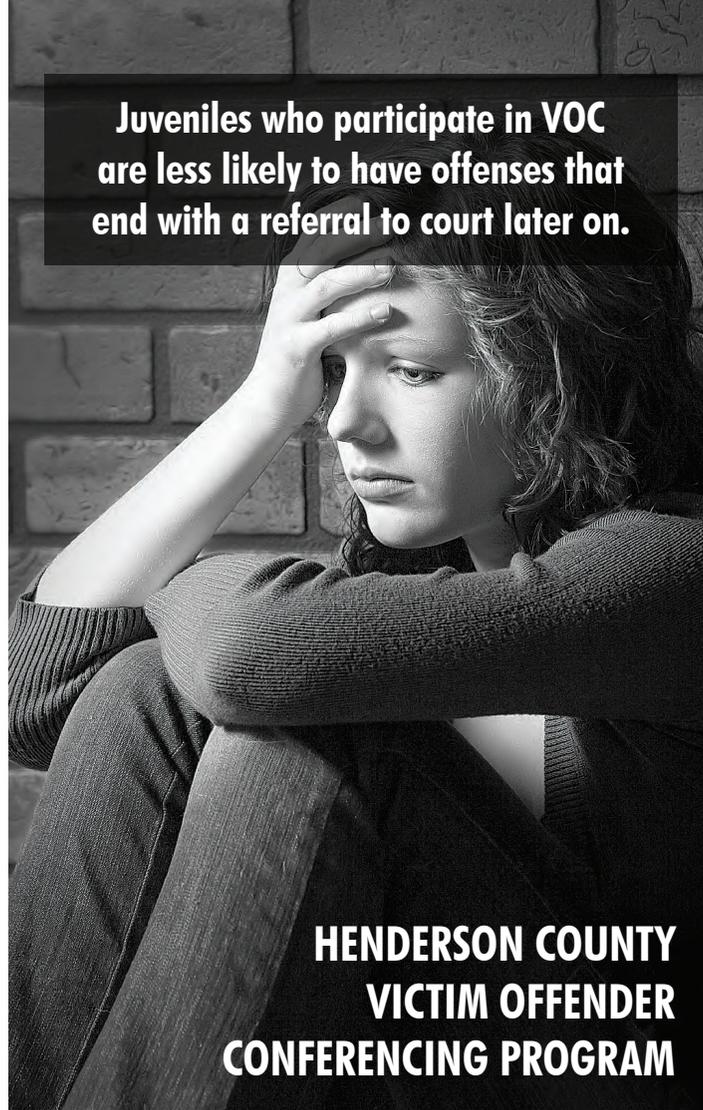
WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

- » Victims of crime who meet with their offender are far more likely to be satisfied with the justice system.
- » Process reduces stereotypes on the part of both the victims and offenders.
- » After meeting the offender, victims are significantly less fearful of being revictimized.
- » Offenders who meet their victim(s) are far more likely to successfully complete their restitution obligations and to be accountable to the victim.

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Juveniles who participate in VOC are less likely to have offenses that end with a referral to court later on.



HENDERSON COUNTY VICTIM OFFENDER CONFERENCING PROGRAM

Henderson County Attorney's Office
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HENDERSON COUNTY VICTIM OFFENDER CONFERENCING PROGRAM



Victim Satisfaction, Offender Accountability,
Community Engagement

The mission of the Henderson County Attorney's Victim-Offender Conference (VOC) Program is to build a culture of positive communication that is designed to protect the rights of the victim, represent the interests of the community, and encourage accountability.



What is a Victim Offender Conference (VOC)?

In a victim-offender conference the victims of crime and the juvenile offender talk meaningfully in a safe environment about:

- » What happened.
- » How people have been affected.
- » What could be done to make things better.

A victim-offender conference will only take place if:

- » The offender accepts responsibility for the offence.
- » Both the victim of crime and the offender agree to take part.

VOC provides both parties (victim and offender) with the opportunity to participate in a facilitated dialogue in order to explore what happened, discuss the impacts, and determine how to meaningfully address the harm resulting from the youth's actions.

What are the benefits of participation?

People who are victims of crime are provided with the opportunity to have their say and focus on their needs. Offenders have the opportunity to take responsibility for what they have done and to try to put things right.

People who have been victims of crime can empower themselves and move forward through:

- » Having a voice and asking questions
- » Expressing how they have been affected
- » Holding the offender accountable
- » Having a say in how the harm can be repaired
- » Taking an expanded role in the resolution of the case.
- » Participate in a process designed to affect positive change for juveniles in the community.

Offenders can take positive steps through:

- » Acknowledging responsibility for their actions.
- » Hearing first-hand how their actions have affected others.
- » Actively participating in deciding how the harm can be repaired.
- » Taking an opportunity to show that they are on a path to becoming productive members of the community.
- » Learn conflict resolution and citizenship skills.

**Conferences are safe and private,
and run by trained facilitators.**

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