Victim-offender mediation in the juvenile justice system:  
The Greek legislation in the light of restorative justice theory

Abstract
The Law 3189 of 2003 introduced victim-offender mediation (VOM) in the Greek legal order as an educative measure for juvenile offenders imposed by Juvenile Courts. According to the Explanatory Report of this Law, juvenile supervisors play the role of mediators between the offenders and their victims. This decision of the Greek legislator is critically viewed under the light of restorative justice theory. It is noticed that the responsibilities of juveniles’ supervisors are mainly offender-focused. As a result, neutrality may be at risk. Furthermore, communication between mediators and victims is minimal; the victims’ needs may be put aside. It is concluded that the Greek state has not taken seriously into account the main theoretical principles of mediation and restorative justice. The author proposes that a specialized Department should be created in Greece that consists of well-qualified mediators, who will not be otherwise connected with the offenders and the victims.