

# TOA FACILITIES IN RHINELAND-PALATINATE

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**RheinlandPfalz**  
MINISTERIUM DER JUSTIZ

## Publisher:

Ministerium der Justiz  
 (Ministry of Justice)  
 Ernst-Ludwig-Straße 3  
 55116 Mainz  
 Phone 06131 16-4897  
 Fax 06131 16-4944  
 Email [pressestelle@jm.rlp.de](mailto:pressestelle@jm.rlp.de)  
 Web [www.jm.rlp.de](http://www.jm.rlp.de)

## Printing:

Druckerei der Justizvollzugs- und Sicherungsverwaltungsanstalt Diez  
 Limburger Str. 122  
 65582 Diez

## Version as of:

April 2019



# Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich

(settlement between perpetrator and victim)

## Benefits and opportunities



## TOA - WHAT IS IT?

The **Täter-Opfer-Ausgleich (TOA)** [settlement between perpetrator and victim] is the attempt to reduce the negative effects of a criminal offence.

The perpetrator and victim have the chance to discuss the offence and its consequences as well as to negotiate a compensation. Provisions can hereby be made on civil claims such as compensation for personal suffering and damages.

TOA can bring about a suspension of legal proceedings or a reduced sentence.

This takes place with impartial mediation, which is voluntary and free of charge.

## THE VICTIM CAN...

- express feelings such as anger, fear, frustration, harm and outrage in the settlement discussion,
- introduce ideas on compensation and look for a satisfactory solution together with the perpetrator,
- experience reconciliation and facilitate it personally
- if required, avoid lengthy and expensive civil proceedings.

## HOW DOES IT TAKE PLACE?

In separate preliminary discussions, it is established whether the parties are willing to settle.

In the event of a subsequent exchange/mediation, those concerned try to work through the conflict and consider the possibility of a compensation.

The parties involved decide the type of compensation. The Public Prosecutor's Office or the court is informed on the result of the settlement efforts and the compensation.

A TOA can be done in **each stage of the investigation or criminal proceedings**.

## THE PERPETRATOR CAN...

- outline the background circumstances of the offence and take responsibility for his/her own actions,
- demonstrate that he/she takes the victim's feelings and fears seriously,
- actively remedy the situation with a compensation,
- therefore obtain a suspension of the proceedings or a milder sentence.

## WHO DOES IT?

In Rhineland-Palatinate, TOA is carried out by associations from the offender support or social administration of justice sector.

The employees responsible have special training.

They are not biased; they are neutral.

TOA is also carried out by some youth welfare offices.

## ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

Employees of TOA facilities (see reverse) can answer any questions you have about TOA.

### Or look it up:

On the Ministry of Justice website  
<http://jm.rlp.de/de/themen/taeter-opfer-ausgleich-toa>

or at  
[www.toa-servicebuero.de](http://www.toa-servicebuero.de)  
[www.taeter-opfer-ausgleich.de](http://www.taeter-opfer-ausgleich.de)