
Victim Impact Statement

A Victim Impact Statement is a document that victims and their families can use to record the impact that the crime has had on them. The Victim Impact Statement should be completed as soon as possible and returned to the prosecutor's office. The Victim Impact Statement is not a public document. It may be viewed by the judge prior to sentencing, the probation officer and the prosecutor. The defendant and his/her attorney may also see it before sentencing. The victim's address is deleted before being sent to court. You will be given the opportunity to give two different types of impact statements:

Written Impact Statement

You should have received a packet from the prosecutor's office called "Crime Victim Assistance/Crime Victim's Brochure." Within this pamphlet will be the form "Felony Victim's Impact Statement." It is suggested that you turn in your written impact statement to the Prosecutor's office as soon as possible. Upon receiving your impact statement, the Prosecutor's office will inform you of any upcoming scheduled court events on this case.

Verbal Impact Statement

You may also make a verbal impact statement at the sentencing date. This is your chance to address the court and express how this crime has physically, emotionally and financially impacted you and your loved ones. When making a verbal impact statement it is important to remember to keep the statement under 5 minutes, address the statement to the judge (Your Honor), not to the defendant and be respectful of the court. You may tell the court what you feel is an appropriate sentence for the defendant. Please remember that the court has to follow guidelines and plea agreements. If you feel unable to make your statement, you may designate someone else to present on your behalf.

If you have any questions about a Victim's Impact Statement, please contact the Sexual Assault Center's Legal Advocate at (989) 790-7500.