

Suggestions for completing your Victim Impact Statement

The following suggestions are offered only as a guide. If you need more space, please use additional pages and simply attach those pages to the Impact Statement form when you return it to the Prosecutor's Office. If you receive an additional impact statement from the probation department, please note that you DO NOT need to complete both. We will forward your statement to the probation department.

What is a Victim Impact Statement? How is it used?

As a crime victim, you have a right under the Crime Victim Rights Act of 1985 to have your Impact Statement included in the pre-sentence investigation report that is prepared by the probation department for sentencing purposes. This statement will help the Judge determine the sentence of the defendant. Only you know how best to describe how the crime has affected you. Many victims find it helpful to organize their statement by the emotional, physical, and financial effects. Some victims have found it helpful to write a rough draft before completing the final statement.

If you would like to tell the court about the emotional impact of this crime, you may want to consider:

- Has this crime affected your lifestyle or those close to you?
- Have your feelings about yourself or your life changed since the crime?
- Has your ability to relate to others changed?

If you or your family members were injured, you may wish to tell the court about the physical impact of this crime:

- Describe the physical injuries you or members of your family suffered.
- Describe how long these injuries lasted or how long they are expected to last.
- Describe any medical treatment you have received or expect to receive in the future.

Elements of a Good Victim Impact Statement

- Highlight what the crime has meant personally to the author
- Explain how the crime effected you emotionally and physically
- Include any out-of-pocket expenses you incurred because of the crime

If you have any questions, or would like help in preparing your Impact Statement, please call the Victim's Rights Unit at (810)985-2301.

Our office will not disclose your information to the defendant or the defense attorney.