

What is the purpose of the victim impact statement?

A victim impact statement is an important document. It is your chance to express to the Court how the crime has affected (or is affecting) you. Information on the effects of crime can be taken into account when considering the sentencing of the convicted person.

You do not have to provide a victim impact statement if you do not want to. It is entirely your choice. If you do not want to make a victim impact statement, remember you can change your mind at any time prior to sentencing. You may appear for sentencing and make comment at that time if you wish, however, you are not required to attend.

A victim impact statement might assist the court in ordering the convicted person to pay compensation.

You may use the form attached to prepare your victim impact statement – or you may prefer to write a statement or a letter to the Judge.

Who gets to see your victim impact statement?

The person writing the statement (probation officer) and the Judge will be the only individuals that read your statement.

How do I write a victim impact statement?

Anybody can help you with it, but it is important that the victim impact statement is written in your own words (the way you talk and write). You can write your statement or use the form enclosed. You may like to use the questions in the form as a guide.

What information should I provide?

If you believe it is relevant, you can provide any of the following details:

- Details of the full effects of the crime including financial, social, emotional, psychological and physical harm done or suffered by you or your family.
- Where the crime resulted in death, you may wish to write about your loved one who was killed – who that person was to you, the life they led, your relationship, and how your life has now changed.
- If you were injured, a description of those injuries and details of any physical effects the crime had on you and your family.
- You may wish to comment about changes in lifestyle. For instance, how have your social commitments changed? How has the crime affected your employment? Have you had any changes in accommodation/education?
- You may wish to include details of the financial or economic impact of the crime, for example, lost wages, medical or other treatment expenses and transport costs. In the case of property damage, the cost of repairs/replacement.
- Outline any request for compensation you wish the court to consider.
- Any information related to the offense that you consider important to be considered by the Judge during sentencing.
- Finally, check your statement to make sure it is accurate.

Do you wish the court to consider ordering the convicted person to pay compensation? Yes No

If yes, what is the total amount of compensation you seek to claim? _____
(please attach information to verify costs, i.e. estimates, accounts, receipts.)

I, _____
(full name)

would like to advise the court how the crime affected me and my family (if appropriate). If necessary, please print or write legibly and attach additional pages.

Non-physical trauma suffered as a result of the crime (shock, fear, grief, distress, embarrassment etc).

Physical injuries suffered as a result of the crime (description of treatment sought or received; cost and ongoing treatment; include medical, dental and psychological if appropriate).

Financial loss as a result of the crime. (Have you had to repair or replace any property, medical expenses, counseling fees, lost income or had to pay or likely to have any other ongoing costs, i.e. dental, insurance expenses?) (Please attach receipts.)

Did you have insurance to cover any of the costs? **Yes No**
Name of insurance company: _____ Policy # _____

Please explain what was covered by insurance and indicate any payments, which you had to make (including insurance excess).

Your version of the events & comment regarding sentencing
