

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

An impact statement is a time to speak in open court about how the defendant's actions have affected your or your loved one(s) lives. It is also the only time the defendant will be able to hear how he or she has impacted your life. Make sure to direct your statement to the judge and use respectful language. This is your one chance to be able to tell the judge how your life has changed and the lasting impact the crime has had on your or your loved one(s) life. Your statements are important for the judge to consider when determining the appropriate sentence for a defendant.

If you wish to make an oral and a written statement, you may do so. The following outline can be used to help organize your thoughts and not requirements for impact statements.

Please remember that if you choose to ONLY do an oral statement, try to limit your statement to no more than three pages.

THE HONORABLE _____

RE: PEOPLE vs. _____

- State your name and your relationship to the victim or case.
- Describe the impact this crime has had on you, your family, friends, and community. Impacts can include:
 - Physical—injuries caused by the defendant, lasting bruises or scars from injury
 - Daily life disruption—coming to court, phone call updates about court, speaking to law enforcement, return of property
 - Emotional—PTSD, grief, counseling and/or medication; frustration; humiliation
 - Mental—inability to focus; not able to work
 - Economic—large or ongoing medical bills due to injury; funeral/burial expenses; relocation because of safety issues; loss of income due to injury or stress
- Explain how you feel about a future without your loved one, or about the injuries or losses that you or a loved one must endure, and how this will impact your life.
- Explain how this crime affected your relationship with any family members, friends, co-workers or other people.
- Tell the judge what you feel is justified in the way of a penalty for this crime. If you want restitution or a post-judgment criminal restraining order, this is the time to request it.
- End by thanking the judge for taking the time to hear your statement.