

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT (WRITTEN STATEMENT)

The victim impact statement is the only time you may have contact with the judge.

It is a time to speak in open court about the consequences the defendant imposed on you or your loved one. It is also the only time you will be able to address the defendant. If you feel you cannot, or do not wish to speak in court, you may write a letter to the judge. This letter can take the place of an oral statement. If you wish to make an oral and a written statement, you may do so.

If you choose to make a written statement, the following outline can be used to organize it.

THE HONORABLE _____
NAME OF COURT _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____

RE: PEOPLE vs. _____

CASE NUMBER: _____

1ST PARAGRAPH: State your name and your relationship to the victim.

2nd PARAGRAPH: Provide the date and summary of the incident. Include the defendant and victim's name.

3rd PARAGRAPH: Describe the impact this crime has had on you, your family, friends, and community. State if this crime has caused economic hardship, such as large or ongoing medical bills, funeral expenses, loss of income, etc.

4th PARAGRAPH: 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.

5th PARAGRAPH: Tell the judge what you feel is justified in the way of a penalty for this crime. If you want restitution, this is the time to request it.

IN ADDITION:

_____ I request a Criminal Restraining Order be ordered by the Court for further protection.

_____ I request a Victim Notification form which entitles me to the right to be notified when the inmate is scheduled to be released from prison, or any CDC facility, escapes or is released for a work furlough program. (Penal Code Section 3085.8- Obtain form from local Victim Assistance Center.)