

WHY PREPARE A VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT?

1. **For yourself:** The Victim Impact Statement provides you with an opportunity to describe how you have been affected by the crime.
2. **For the Court:** If a charge is laid and the accused person is found guilty, your Victim Impact Statement will be considered by the Judge at the time of sentencing. Your Victim Impact Statement will help the Court understand how the crime has affected you emotionally and physically, and the effect the crime has had on your life.

WHAT YOU CAN AND CANNOT INCLUDE IN A VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

1. What you CAN include in your Victim Impact Statement:

- How the crime has affected you emotionally.
- How the crime has affected you physically.
- The effect the crime has had on your life.

2. Do NOT include:

- Information or evidence about the crime or how the crime occurred. This information will have been in the Witness Statement you gave to police. When your Victim Impact Statement is considered by the Court, the accused person will already have been found guilty.
- Criticisms about the accused person's character.
- Your recommendation as to the type of sentence or the severity of punishment the accused should receive.

If your Victim Impact Statement contains any of the above, the Court may not consider it.

3. Please remember:

- The offender will have the opportunity to read your Victim Impact Statement at the sentencing hearing. Do not include anything that you do not want the offender to know.
- The Victim Impact Statement does not deal with financial loss. Please contact Victim Services for information about how to request restitution. If you suffered injury as a result of the crime, please ask Victim Services for information about the Financial Benefits Program.
- Sentencing can occur at any time. To ensure your Victim Impact Statement is available to the Court in time to be considered during sentencing, please deliver or mail it to the courthouse as soon as possible.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

1. First, notify Victim Services that you intend to prepare a Victim Impact Statement. Victim Services can assist you and will alert the Court to watch for your Victim Impact Statement.
2. Once you have completed your Victim Impact Statement, sign it and put it in the blue Victim Impact Statement envelope.
3. Seal the blue Victim Impact Statement envelope.
4. On the outside of the blue Victim Impact Statement envelope, check the box that indicates whether or not you wish to read your Victim Impact Statement in Court.
5. Put the sealed blue Victim Impact Statement envelope inside the white return envelope that has a Courthouse address pre-printed on it.
6. Deliver the white return envelope to the nearest courthouse location, or mail it to the address stamped on the envelope.

You may wish to make a copy of your Victim Impact Statement to keep for your records.

Victim's Name	Accused Person's Name (if known)
Police Agency Name	Police File Number

PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW THIS CRIME HAS AFFECTED YOU EMOTIONALLY

PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW THIS CRIME HAS AFFECTED YOU PHYSICALLY

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE EFFECT THIS CRIME HAS HAD ON YOUR LIFE

Additional pages can be attached if you desire. ☐ Yes, the Victim Impact Statement continues on the attached pages.

I UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING

1. The information in this Victim Impact Statement will be considered only if a charge is laid and the accused person is found guilty.

2. After a finding of guilt, a copy of this Victim Impact Statement will be provided to the Judge, the Crown prosecutor, the defence lawyer and the offender.

3. The Judge will consider the Victim Impact Statement at the time the offender is sentenced.

4. If the Victim Impact Statement is read aloud in court, anyone in the courtroom will be able to hear it. After the Judge considers the Victim Impact Statement, it will become a matter of public record. A member of the public or media

could apply to the Court to have access to a copy of the Victim Impact Statement.

5. If the Victim Impact Statement is not considered by a Judge (for example, if the accused is found not guilty), the Victim Impact Statement will remain in the sealed envelope.

6. If the offender is sentenced to probation or prison, the Victim Impact Statement will be provided to provincial or federal correctional authorities and the National Parole Board.

7. If the accused person is found "not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder," the Victim Impact Statement will be provided to the Alberta Review Board.

Signature

Date

If someone other than the victim has prepared this Victim Impact Statement, please complete the following:

Name of person who prepared this statement

Relationship to victim

You may wish to make a copy of your Victim Impact Statement to keep for your records.