

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS

What is a Victim Impact Statement and How is it Used?

Only you and/or your child can tell the court the effect this crime has had on you, your family, and those close to you. One way to do that is to fill out a victim impact statement. If the defendant pleads or is found guilty, your statement will help the judge understand what the impact of this crime has been on your child, you and those close to you. While you have the right to fill out a statement, you do not have to fill out a statement if it will make you feel uncomfortable in any way. Filling out the victim impact statement is voluntary. You also have the right to speak to the judge in open court at sentencing about the impact of this crime.

It may be hard for you and/or your child to speak publicly about being a crime victim. Your impact statement, however, gives you the opportunity to think about what you would like to say, and make a statement to the judge without speaking in open court. It helps the judge decide what punishment the defendant should receive and if the defendant will be ordered to pay restitution. If the judge orders the defendant to pay restitution, there is no guaranteed time frame within which you can expect to be paid. In fact, it may take months or even years for restitution to be paid in full, especially if the defendant is sentenced to prison.

Your statement will become an official court document and open public record after it is given to the court. It also becomes part of the defendant's permanent file. Your statement will be read by the judge, prosecutor, and probation officers, as well as the defendant and his attorney. In addition, prison officials may read it if the defendant is sentenced to prison. The parole board can consider your statement when the defendant becomes eligible for parole.

Suggestions for Completing the Victim Impact Statement:

- *Describe how the crime affected your life, your child's life, or the lives of your loved ones.
- *Has anything changed in your relationships with others?
- *Has the crime changed your routines or activities you enjoyed?
- *Has there been a change in your child's friendships, behavior or schoolwork?
- *Write about any physical injuries. How long did they last or are expected to last? Were you left with physical scars or impaired body function?
- *Write about medical treatment and/or any mental health counseling.
- *Include any expenses incurred as a result of the crime.

Helping your Child Complete the Victim Impact Statement:

As a parent, you know your child best. It is up to you to decide if filling out a victim impact statement is in the best interest of your child. Do not ask your child to complete the form if you feel it will be detrimental to their well being.

Your child may find it helpful to know that by filling out a statement, he or she can tell the judge how they feel about what happened and how it changed their life. Your child can write, draw pictures, or compose a poem. Your child can write or draw as much or as little as they wish. If your child is in counseling please discuss the impact statement with your child's therapist. If your child is nervous, upset, or scared to complete the form, let your child know that it is okay to feel this way. Do **NOT** force your child to complete the form. Let your child know that you are proud of them regardless of whether the form is completed, or not.

Final Instructions:

No one knows better than you how this crime changed your life. Judges, attorneys, and parole boards see criminal cases day in and day out. Your victim impact statement personalizes your case and keeps it from blending together with every other case. Those of us involved in your case believe that it is very important for you to help the court understand all of the ways this crime has affected you. Your voice counts!

Please return your completed impact statements writing the next 10 days to:

**Commonwealth Attorney's Office
303 Court Street, Suite 605
Covington, Kentucky 41011
Attention: Stephanie Watson**

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

This statement is submitted to the probation officer responsible for preparing the presentence investigation report for inclusion in the report, or to the court should such a report be waived by the defendant. The victim impact statement shall be considered by the court prior to any decision on the sentencing or release, including shock probation, of the defendant. (KRS 421.520)

NOTE: The Crime Victims Compensation Board may be contacted at (800) 469-2120, concerning an application for victim compensation.

Defendant:		Indictment#:
Convicted of the Following Offenses:		
County of Indictment:	Date of Conviction:	Sentencing Date:
Date Submitted:		
Victims(s) and Date(s) of Birth:		
This form was completed by:		
If not the victim, relationship to the victim:		
Prosecutor:		

If you have any questions, call Stephanie Watson, Victim Advocate 859-~~2~~92-6580

In order to give the judge sufficient time to review it prior to sentencing the defendant, this completed victim impact statement should be mailed by _____ to:

Commonwealth's Attorney's Office
 303 Court Street Room 605
 Covington, Kentucky 41011
 ATTN: Stephanie

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1. If the crime resulted in death or physical injury, please describe the cause of death or extent of the injuries and medical treatment received.

2. If the crime resulted in a death, were you or any members of your family financially responsible for funeral expenses and/or medical expenses of the victim? Please Explain.

3. Did this crime result in any damage, loss or destruction of property? Please explain.

4. What emotional or psychological impact or remaining affects has the crime had upon you, the victim and/or other family members?

5. Since the crime occurred have you or any family member received or needed professional counseling or treatment?

6. Has being a crime victim effected your employment or lifestyle? If yes, explain:

7. What is your recommendation for an appropriate sentence of the defendant?

8. Additional comments:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Do you wish to appear before the Parole Board for a Victim Hearing? _____

Do you wish to be notified of the Board's decision on the defendant's Parole Review? _____

Please list your name and permanent address:

The information on this page is for notification purposes to be used by the Kentucky Parole Board. This page will not be submitted to the Court.