

HOW TO WRITE A VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT:

A Victim Impact Statement (VIS) is your opportunity to let the Judge know how this crime has affected you and your family. The topics listed below are only suggestions of the areas you may wish to cover. You do not need to address every issue. Write what is important to you, spelling, penmanship and grammar are not important. You may submit a written statement and/or make a verbal statement to the court. Please contact this office if you intend to complete a VIS as soon as possible.

If the crime is classified as a misdemeanor; your statement must be returned prior to the defendants initial appearance date. If the defendant pleads guilty at the initial appearance your statement will be given to the Judge to review. If the case is a felony offense, the original VIS will be filed with the Judge, with copies provided to the District Attorney, the Defense Attorney, and the Presentence Investigator, if one has been ordered.

This is your chance to show the court how being a victim of crime has changed your life and your feelings concerning sentencing.

TOPICS FOR VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT:

- Were there **physical injuries** associated with the crime/incident? (if so, describe the extent of the injuries)
- Was **medical attention** required? What **medical expenses** do you have?
- Were you or your family **psychologically impacted** as a result of this crime/incident?
- Have you or your family received any **counselling or therapy** as a result of this crime/incident? (if so describe the amount of counselling and costs)
- Has this affected your **ability to earn a living**?
- Has this affected your ability to maintain your previous **grade level in school**?
- Other expenses or losses as a result of this crime?
- How has this crime **affected you and/or your family's lifestyle** ?
- Do you have any thoughts or suggestions for the Judge to consider regarding what sentence should be imposed?
- Do not discuss the facts of the crime/incident
- Do not add any confidential information to VIS