



ALBANY POLICE DEPARTMENT
VICTIM ASSISTANCE

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What is a Victim Impact Statement?

A victim impact statement (VIS) is the vehicle through which a victim of crime is given the opportunity to be heard before the sentence is imposed. This right to be heard gives the victim an opportunity to express how this crime has affected them emotionally, monetarily, physically or psychologically and provides a way to offer thoughts, suggestions and recommendations on a defendant's sentence. The statement can be made in writing and/or given orally and can be presented personally by the victim, victims' next of kin or through an attorney.

When a defendant is charged with a crime, and you chose to explain to the Court your experiences, you may do so in a variety of ways. Fully explaining to the Court your experiences is very important. By doing so you are giving the Court the opportunity to consider the impact of the crime on you and others.

At sentencing, you may choose to deliver your Victim Impact Statement in a few different ways:

- You may read your statement aloud yourself
- You may have a designee read your statement aloud for you
- You may have your written statement read silently for the Judge, the Defense, and the City Attorney
- **You do not have to be present in court to have your statement read.**

Written or verbal statements may become a part of the official Court record. The judge, the City Attorney, defendant and the Defense Attorney have access to your statement when it is presented at sentencing.

If you decide to make a Victim Impact Statement, what do you say?

It is important to remember that making a statement is your right as a victim of a crime. Although we cannot tell you what to say, here are some general guidelines that may help you begin your statement.

- How has the crime affected you/your family/others?
- What emotional, physical, financial, or other impact has this had on you?
- What changes have you had to make as a result of this incident?
- What concerns do you have regarding your safety or your future?
- What is your ideal result or outcome of this criminal case?

Please address the Judge (Your Honor) while making your statement, not the defendant.

Please write your statement legibly on the document provided (reverse side) or on another blank sheet of paper of your own choosing. Submit the completed Victim Impact Statement as soon as possible by email to tara.williams@cityofalbany.net, or by mail to:

Albany Police Department
Attn: Tara Williams, Victim Assistance Specialist
2600 Pacific Boulevard SW
Albany, OR 97321

