

# VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT RESOURCE PACKET

## **1. Your Victim Impact Statement makes a difference.**

*The Victim Impact Statement is one way to tell decision makers in the justice system how your life has changed as a result of this crime.* The information, bills, estimates and other documentation for crime related losses/expenses that you provide will assist the deputy district attorney and probation department in preparing what restitution to request and will assist the judge in determining what sentence and restitution the defendant may be ordered to pay.

## **2. How the Victim Impact Statement is used.**

*Your completed Statement becomes an official court document after you submit it.* The completed Victim Impact Statement is reviewed by your victim advocate, the deputy district attorney and a copy is made for the court file for review by the judge, the probation department, the defendant and the defendant's attorney. Your Statement is not be made available to, or reviewed by, a jury. Prison or parole officials, including community corrections officials, may also receive a copy of your Statement if the defendant is sentenced to a prison term. *The defendant will not be able to access any information about your address or telephone number from this Statement because we are not asking you to include that information.* You have the right to decide how to present your Victim Impact Statement.

### *It is your right to:*

- Present your statement in writing for the judge to read before the sentencing hearing, using a form like this or any other written documentation; *or*
- Speak to the judge at the sentencing hearing; *or*
- Present your statement **both** in writing and speak to the judge at the sentencing hearing; *or*
- Ask the prosecuting attorney or victim advocate to read your written statement to the judge at the sentencing hearing.

## **3. Suggestions for completing your Victim Impact Statement.**

*The attached form is to assist you in completing this very important document.*

We realize that it may be difficult to describe in words how this crime has changed your life. It may be helpful to work on this one question at a time instead of trying to do it all at once. Sometimes it is helpful to write a rough draft before completing your final statement. Answer as many questions as you wish. If you need more space or you have additional information that isn't addressed by the questions in the form, use as much paper as you need and attach them to the Statement when you return it.

You may also add or make changes to this Statement if you wish before the sentencing hearing takes place. *If you would like to receive an electronic copy of a blank Victim Impact Statement form to work on from a computer, please call the victim advocate listed below and ask for the Statement form to be emailed to you.*

***Any monetary losses/expenses you would like the judge to consider for restitution must be documented.*** If you have paid or owe any money for bills because of this crime, please attach them to the statement. If there is work that needs to be done in the future, please attach a written estimate of how much this will cost and an explanation of how these expenses are directly related to the crime. It is important to be as accurate and complete as possible when listing your expenses. Even though the judge may order restitution, there is no guarantee of payment by the defendant for your losses/expenses. You have the right to pursue payment of your crime related losses/expenses through a private lawsuit. Please keep a copy of your bills or estimates for your own records.

#### **4. Filling out the Victim Impact Statement is voluntary**

***Choosing to submit a completed Statement is a personal decision.***

*If you do not wish to complete the Victim Impact Statement, please place your initials where indicated on the first page and return the first page of the Statement only.*

Having a completed Statement provides the judge with essential information that only you and your family can provide when deciding what sentence the defendant should receive and to determine restitution. Please mark N/A for those questions that do not apply to you or your situation.

#### **5. For help with your Victim Impact Statement.**

***Return your completed impact statement as soon as possible. This document is time sensitive.*** If you have any questions while writing your statement, please contact a victim advocate at 303-659-7735. ***If you would like to speak at the sentencing hearing, please contact (victim advocate) so that they can help set this up for you.***

- Please make a copy of the Victim Impact Statement form and the attachments that you are providing for your records.
- Please ***NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY IF YOU MOVE OR CHANGE YOUR PHONE NUMBER*** so that we can keep you informed of the sentencing hearing date.



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**PART 2 EMOTIONAL / PSYCHOLOGICAL / LIFE IMPACT**

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**A. EMOTIONAL / PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT:** This is a chance for you to describe your feelings of loss, frustration, anger and fear as well to describe the feelings of your family members about this crime and the impact it has had on your lives. If you need more space, please use as much paper as you need and attach these pages when you return it. *The following questions are included only to help you in preparing your response to this section of the Victim Impact Statement and may or may not apply to you.*

- Has your feelings about yourself and others changed since the crime? How have they changed?
- Has your ability to relate to others changed because of the crime? How is it different?
- Has your family / friends commented about changes in you since the crime? What is different now?
- How do you feel about the changes that have happened in your life because of, and since, the crime?

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**B. LIFE CHANGES:** Are there changes in your life that have happened, or changes that you have made in your life, because of this crime? *For example, are you still able to work or participate in activities that you enjoyed before the crime? If not, why not? Did you have to move or change schools?* You may also include changes that family members may have made that you think are because of the crime, if any.

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**C. SAFETY & SECURITY:** Please describe any specific safety and security concerns for yourself or your family related to this crime that you have now. \_\_\_\_\_

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**D. MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT:** *Please check all boxes that apply.* **YES** **NO**

- Have you been to therapy or counseling related to this crime?
- Have any family member(s) been to therapy or counseling related to this crime?
- *Would you like information about therapy / counseling referrals now?*

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**PART 3 PHYSICAL IMPACT**

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**A. PHYSICAL INJURIES:** If you need more space, please use as much paper as you need and attach them when you return this form. *The following questions are included only to help you in preparing your response to section of the Victim Impact Statement and may or may not apply to you.*

- Describe the specific physical injuries you or members of your family had because of this crime.
- Have you or your family member recovered from these injuries? If not, how long will recovery take?
- Have, or will, the injuries from the crime result in permanent scarring, disfigurement, long-term disability, chronic pain, etc?
- If it applies, have your physical injuries impacted your ability to work? If so, how and for how long?

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**B. MEDICAL TREATMENT:** *Please attach all medical bills incurred as a result of this crime.*

*Please check all boxes that apply.*

**YES NO**

- Did you receive medical treatment for injuries related to the crime?
- Are you currently receiving medical treatment because of the crime?*
- Did any family member(s) received medical treatment for injuries related to the crime?
- Are family member(s) currently receiving medical treatment because of the crime?*

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**PART 4 ECONOMIC IMPACT**

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**Check here if you have no financial expenses or property damage / loss**

**A. ECONOMIC LOSSES:** Use this section to document economic losses and financial expenses as a result of the crime. It is critical that you attach copies of bills, receipts, invoices, estimates, payroll check stubs or a specific explanation to prove the loss you are requesting to be considered for restitution. This section also refers to property loss and / or damage resulting from the crime that is not being held as evidence by a law enforcement agency.

DESCRIPTION OF LOSS / EXPENSE	COST TO DATE
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

**B. INSURANCE INFORMATION:**

**YES NO**

- Do you have insurance for your crime related expenses or losses?    
 Medical Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Policy or Group Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Auto Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Please forward additional documentation of your crime related expense(s) or loss(es) as you receive them to your victim advocate. It is important to always write the criminal case number on all documentation you forward.** You may be contacted by the District Attorney’s Office Restitution Division and /or the Probation Department for follow-up regarding your crime related expense(s) or loss(es) before the sentencing hearing. *If the defendant disagrees with the amount of restitution you have claimed, he/she may request a Restitution Hearing to be set.* If the judge agrees to set a hearing, you may be subpoenaed to testify and will need to provide documentation of these expense(s) and loss(es). Please keep copies of all documentation you submit for your records.

**C. CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION ASSISTANCE**

*You may be eligible to apply for Crime Victim Compensation assistance for certain expense(s) or loss(es) that are directly related to the crime.*

*Please check all boxes that apply.*

**YES NO**

- Have you applied for Crime Victim Compensation?
- Are you interested in learning more about Crime Victim Compensation?

**PART 5 CERTIFICATION and RELEASE**

I do hereby swear that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Further, I authorize the release of information by the above named insurance companies / service providers to the Office of the District Attorney - 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District for purposes of determining restitution.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name Printed \_\_\_\_\_

***Please contact your victim advocate to verify that we have the most current contact telephone number(s) to contact you in the event an employee of the District Attorney’s Office needs to contact you regarding the information contained in the Victim Impact Statement.***

***Thank you for your time.***

**Spanish**

Si no puede leer o hablar inglés, por favor tenga un amigo que habla inglés o miembro de la familia llamar a la unidad de servicios para víctima y testigos unidad a 303-659-7735.

**Cambodian**

ប្រសិនបើអ្នកមិនចេះអាន ឬនិយាយភាសាអង់គ្លេសទេ, សូមឱ្យសាច់ញាតិ ឬអ្នកចេះនិយាយភាសា  
អង់គ្លេស ហៅមកក្រុមជំនួយការជនរងគ្រោះ លេខ ៣០៣-៦៥៩-៧៧៣៥ ។

**Chinese**

假如您不能读或讲英语，请找一位会讲英语的朋友或家人打电话给受  
害人/证人服务小组，电话号码 303-659-7735。

**Korean**

영어를 읽을 수 없거나 말할 수 없는 분은, 영어를 말할 수 있는 친구나  
가족을 통해서 303-659-7735 로 피해자/증인 서비스 부서에 연락하십시오.

**Laotian**

ຖ້າທ່ານບໍ່ສາມາດອ່ານຫຼືບາກເວົ້າພາສາອັງກິດໄດ້,  
ກະລຸນາໃຫ້ເພື່ອນຫຼືສະມາជິກໃນຄອບຄົວຂອງທ່ານທີ່ບາກເວົ້າພາສາອັງກິດໄດ້  
ໂທຄະສັບຫາໜ່ວຍບໍລິການຜູ້ທີ່ຖືກຄາວາຍ/ພະຍານໄດ້ທີ່ເລກ 303-659-7735

**Russian**

Если Вы не говорите и не читаете по-английски и Вам нужна помощь, пожалуйста, попросите родственника  
или знакомого, владеющего английским языком, помочь Вам позвонить в "Программу помощи  
пострадавшим". Вы можете связаться с нами по тел. 303-659-7735.

**Thai**

หากท่านไม่สามารถอ่านหรือพูดภาษาอังกฤษได้  
กรุณาขอให้สมาชิกในครอบครัวหรือเพื่อนของท่าน  
โทรศัพท์แจ้งเหตุที่หน่วยบริการผู้เสียหาย  
ย 303-659-7735.

**Vietnamese**

Nếu bạn không đọc và nói được tiếng Anh, hãy nhờ người bạn hoặc người nhà  
biết tiếng Anh gọi đến Đơn Vị Phục Vụ Nạn Nhân/ Người Làm Chứng tại số 303-  
659-7735.