

## **WHO can submit a victim impact statement?**

- The victim
- Friends and/or family members of the victim
- Community members

## **WHAT is a victim impact statement?**

- An opportunity for you to inform the court about any impact this crime has had on you and/or your life, address any safety concerns you may have, etc.

## **WHEN is a victim impact statement presented?**

- Bond reduction hearing
- Plea hearing
- Sentencing hearing

## **HOW do I submit a victim impact statement?**

- Orally, in the hearing
- Written statement



St. Louis

Circuit Attorney's Office

Victim Services

314-622-4373


FAX: 314-622-4900

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VICTIM  
IMPACT  
STATEMENTS



## What to Include

- How has this crime impacted you, your family, and/or your friends
- How this crime has changed your lifestyle
- Discuss any physical or emotional injury endured
- Discuss any safety concerns you, your family, and/or your friends may have
- Discuss any financial loss
- Discuss restitution requests (only include for statements being submitted for sentencing hearing)
- Reference the defendant's name
- Discuss any additional information you think would be relevant for the court to know in relation to this matter

## What NOT to Include

- Personal information such as phone number, address, social security number, etc.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Can I attend the hearing but not give my statement myself?

- Yes, if you want to attend but do not want to orally make a statement you can give a written statement to the prosecutor to present to the judge on your behalf.

How do I know my submitted written statement will be presented at the hearing if I'm not present?

- The advocate you send your statement to will confirm it's been received and provide a copy of it to the prosecutor covering the hearing.

Do I have a right to submit a victim impact statement?

- According to Missouri Statute, the victim has the right to make an oral or written impact statement at a hearing.

Who do I contact to submit a victim impact statement or if I need help writing a victim impact statement?

- Contact Victim Services at (314) 622-4373.

## What to Keep in Mind

- A victim impact statement is written to the judge
- To address the judge by name or as "Your Honor"
- Add the case number to your victim impact statement if you know it
- Use proper grammar
- Be mindful of the language used in a victim impact statement

## Submitting a Victim Impact Statement

- When submitting a victim impact statement to an advocate, via email, please attach your statement as a document if possible
- A written victim impact statement should be no more than one page in length
- Have your victim impact statement submitted no later than 8:30am the day of the hearing