

Are you a victim of a crime?

A Victim Impact Statement can give you a voice in the criminal justice system. It is important.

What is a Victim Impact Statement?

- A Victim Impact Statement tells the court how the crime has affected you. It answers questions like: *“How do you feel? How were you hurt? What did you lose?”*
- A Victim Impact Statement is about the impact of the crime on you: it is not about the accused or about what you feel should happen to them if they are found guilty.
- A Victim Impact Statement can tell the court how you feel about seeing the accused when court is over. For example: if you do not want them to contact you, say that.
- A Victim Impact Statement is not about what happened during the crime –that is in the statement you gave to the police as evidence about the crime.

Who can do a Victim Impact Statement?

- If you are a victim of a crime, you can do a Victim Impact Statement.
- A Victim Impact Statement is voluntary: you can choose to do it or you can choose not to do one.
- If the victim has died (or is too sick to do a statement), then a spouse, relative, guardian or dependant can do the Victim Impact Statement.

How do you do a Victim Impact Statement?

- The RCMP will give you a Victim Impact Statement form and an envelope. Use your own words. Express your feelings in a way that is comfortable for you.
 - ✉ Write your statement on the form.
 - ✉ Keep a copy of the Victim Impact Statement for yourself.
 - ✉ Put the other copy in the envelope and mail it.
- For more information or if you need help, call the Victims Coordinator at (867) 920-6911 or 920-8951 collect.
- If you want to add more information later on, or you need another copy of the Victim Impact Statement form, call the local RCMP and they will help you.

When is your Victim Impact Statement used?

- Your Victim Impact Statement is kept in a file with the court. It is used if the accused is found guilty.
- If the accused is found guilty, the Judge or JP will ask if you had a chance to do a Victim Impact Statement. If you did one, the court and the lawyers will each get a copy. The accused may see it too.
- Your Victim Impact Statement is not used if the RCMP do not lay charges, or if the charges are dropped, or if the accused is found not guilty.

How is your Victim Impact Statement used?

- Your Victim Impact Statement is used in court at the Sentencing Hearing. The Judge or JP reads it before deciding about the sentence for the offender.
- You may read your Victim Impact Statement out loud in court, at the Sentencing Hearing, if you want to.
- The Judge or JP or the lawyers may ask you questions about your Victim Impact Statement, at the Sentencing Hearing.
- People who work with the offender after court is all over (such as a parole officer) may also be interested in reading your Victim Impact Statement. It helps them to better understand the impact of the crime on you.