

Manitoba Victim Impact Statement Guidelines

As a victim who has experienced a crime, you have the right to complete a Victim Impact Statement. The following information has been developed to assist you in describing the impact that the crime has had on you.

It is important that you use the attached Victim Impact Statement form and follow these guidelines for completing it. Please see the Manitoba Victim Impact Statement Overview fact sheet for more information.

Information that you should include in your statement:

A Victim Impact Statement speaks only to the emotional, physical and financial impact the crime has had on you. It is possible that your statement may not be used by the court if you include information that is not supposed to be in the statement.

When writing your statement, you should:

- give details of any physical and/or emotional injuries you have suffered because of the crime
- outline any treatment or therapy you may have received or needed
- give details of any financial loss you may have suffered. This may include but is not limited to:
 - the cost of insurance deductibles
 - time lost from work
 - medical expenses not covered by insurance

In your statement, you must not:

- comment on the offender's behaviour or character, except to describe how the crime has affected you
- say what sentence the judge should impose
- complain about how the police, Crown attorney, defence lawyer or judge has handled the case
- describe how the crime has affected other people, except to say how the crime has changed your relationships with others
- include photographs or medical reports (these should be given to the Crown attorney)

Note: You may be called upon to testify in court and be asked questions about your Victim Impact Statement. If you provide any conflicting or false information, this may have a negative impact on the outcome of the case.

The Victim Impact Statement is not confidential

Once your statement has been submitted, the content of your statement will be reviewed. Your statement will then be disclosed. Disclosure means that the Crown attorney must forward a copy of your Victim Impact Statement to the offender and/or the offender's lawyer.

Once the statement has been filed in open court it becomes a public document and discussions around the content of your statement may be presented and recorded on the court record.