

Victim Impact Statement

Case No: _____ Defendant(s): _____

Victim(s): _____

What is a victim impact statement? A victim impact statement is an opportunity for your voice to be heard by our criminal justice system. It is a statement that can be written and presented aloud to the court at sentencing that describes how the crime has affected you and others. Describing the impact that the crime had on you is your right as a victim of a crime.

If I decide to make a victim impact statement, how can I make it? If the defendant is convicted and you choose to tell the Court about your experiences, you may do so in a variety of ways. You can personally make your statement to the Court by speaking at the sentencing. If you are not comfortable with this option, you may request that your written thoughts be read aloud by a friend or family member, or read silently by the parties involved. ***Written or spoken statements may become a part of the official court record. The judge, the prosecutor, the defendant, the defendant's attorney and the probation officer have access to your statement when it is presented at sentencing.***

If I decide to make a victim impact statement, what do I say? Telling the Court about your experience is very important. By doing so, you are giving the Court the opportunity, if the defendant is found guilty, to consider the impact the crime had on you and others when the defendant's sentence is determined. Remember, to address your words as if you are speaking to the Court and not the defendant. Below are questions you may use as a guide in helping you to express your experience. You may write answers to the questions in the space below or you can write your own thoughts on the back of this form or on another piece of paper.

How has this crime affected you and others? What was the emotional, physical and/or financial impact on you and others? What changes have you made in your life as a result of this incident? What concerns do you have, if any, about your safety and security? What would you like to see result from this?

How do you prefer to communicate your thoughts on how the crime has affected you to the Court?

- I do not plan to attend the sentencing
- I plan to attend the sentencing, but I don't want to speak or have my statement read
- I plan to attend the sentencing, and I would like to (please choose one):
 - Have my written words read silently by the parties involved
 - Read Victim Impact Statement aloud myself

**Return this form within 10 days to:
Linn County District Attorney's Office
Victim Services Program
Linn County Courthouse, P O Box 100
Albany OR 97321
Phone: 541-967-3805 Fax: 541-928-3501**