

Resources for Victims

True North
Crisis Hotline: (573)875-1370
Outreach: (573)875-0503

Family Counseling Center
117 N Garth Ave
Columbia, MO 65203
(573)449-2581

Mid-Missouri Legal Services
1201 West Broadway
Columbia, MO 65203
(573)442-0116

Rainbow House
1611 Towne Drive
Columbia, MO 65202
(573)474-6600

Crime Victims' Compensation
P.O. Box 1589
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573)526-6006

Missouri Department of Corrections
Office of Victim Services
3400 Knipp Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65101
(573)526-6516



DANIEL K. KNIGHT, Prosecutor
Office of the Boone County Prosecuting Attorney
705 E. Walnut Street – Courthouse
Columbia, Missouri 65201-4485
573-886-4100
FAX: 573-886-4148



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A GUIDE FOR WRITING YOUR VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

What is a Victim Impact Statement?

Providing a victim impact statement allows for your voice to be heard by the criminal justice system. Your victim impact statement is important because it describes how the crime has affected you and your loved ones and it also provides the court with input regarding how the offender can best be held accountable for the harm he/she has caused. A victim impact statement may be provided in writing and/or orally in open court.

Providing a Victim Impact Statement is Voluntary

Providing a victim impact statement is a voluntary right that you have as a victim of crime, but you do not have to provide one if you do not wish to.



What should I include in my statement?

Only you know how to best describe the effects this crime has had on you and those close to you. It may be difficult to describe in words how this crime has affected you. There are a variety of topics that can be included in your statement. You may use the following questions as a guide to assist you in preparing your statement:

- Has this crime affected your lifestyle or those close to you?
- Has your ability to relate to others changed, including relationships with friends, family, partners, and/or co-workers?
- Have you had to seek counseling or other support as a result of this crime?
- Has your level of trust in others changed?
- Since the crime, has your general health changed? Can you sleep and/or eat?
- Did you have any physical injuries?
- How long did your injuries last or how long do you expect them to last?
- Did you seek any medical treatment or do you plan on seeking any medical treatment in the future?
- Did you miss work or incur any other financial hardships because of the crime?

How and when will my statement be heard?

If you choose to write a victim impact statement, you may submit it to the prosecutor and he/she will give a copy of your statement to the judge and the defense attorney before the sentencing hearing. If you wish, you may read the written victim impact statement you prepared during the sentencing hearing.

Whether you decide to submit a written statement and/or verbally address the court during sentencing, please remember to be honest and respectful.

***Please contact a member of the victim response team for assistance with your victim impact statement**