

Community Impact Statement

A Community Impact Statement gives your community a chance to tell the court how it has been affected by a crime.

You *can* include this in your Community Impact Statement

- ✓ **Financial impact** – a loss of tourism or costs and losses not covered by insurance
- ✓ **Physical impact** – a loss of services to community members
- ✓ **Emotional impact** - changes in activities and relationships with others in the community. Fears community members now have for their security or that of family and friends
- ✓ You can **draw a picture, write a poem or a letter** to underline how the crime affected your community

You *can't* include this in your Community Impact Statement

- ✓ Anything about the crime or the offender that isn't about you specifically
- ✓ Anything that hasn't been proven in court
- ✓ Anything the offender wasn't found guilty of
- ✓ Your opinion about the verdict or criminal justice system unless you are asked
- ✓ Any information you don't want the offender or the public to know

Get the Community Impact Statement to the courthouse:

- Tell Victim Services that the community is going to do a Community Impact Statement
- Victim Services can help the person preparing the statement for the community understand the process and will tell the court to watch for the Community Impact Statement
- Make sure the statement is signed by the person who prepared the statement on the community's behalf and that they make a copy for themselves
- Put the statement in the turquoise Community Impact Statement envelope and seal the envelope
- If you want to read or present the statement in court on behalf of the community, check the "I would like to read or present the statement in court" on the outside of the blue envelope
- Put the turquoise envelope in the white envelope that has the court address on it
- Deliver the package to the nearest courthouse or mail it to the address on the white envelope

Remember

- ✓ The offender could be sentenced at any time
- ✓ Mail the Community Impact Statement form to the court as soon as you can
- ✓ The Community Impact Statement is not used to apply for restitution (to get money back from the offender)