

Victim Impact Statement

A victim impact statement gives you an opportunity to tell the court how you have been affected by the crime. Victim impact statements are voluntary. Contact your local Victim Service Unit if you have any questions about submitting your victim impact statement.



You can request to:

- Have a support person (of your choice) with you when you read your statement
- Have a picture with you that was taken **before** the crime



A victim impact statement CAN include:

- How the crime has affected you:
 - emotionally, physically, and/or financially
- Fears for your safety or the safety of your family
- You can **draw a picture, write a poem or a letter** to include in your statement if it helps you express how the crime affected you



A victim impact statement CANNOT include:

- Anything about the crime or the accused that is not directly related to the crime
- Anything that has not been proven in court
- Anything the accused wasn't found guilty of
- Anything about anyone who was part of the investigation or prosecution (police, court workers, lawyers, etc.)
- Any opinion about the sentence, unless approved by the court
- Any information you do not want the accused or the public to know

How to submit a victim impact statement:

- Tell your local Victim Service Unit that you are going to submit a victim impact statement
 - The Victim Service Unit can help you understand the process
- Access the victim impact statement form online at <https://formsmgmt.gov.ab.ca/Public/VIC12469.xdp> or through a Victim Service Unit
- Complete the statement
 - If you want to read or present the statement in court, check the “I would like to present my statement in court” on the statement
 - Make sure you sign and date the victim impact statement
 - Make a copy of the completed statement to keep for your records
- Submit the statement
 - If you received the statement from the Victim Service Unit;
 - Put the statement in the victim impact statement envelope and seal the envelope
 - Make sure all of the information on the outside of the victim impact statement envelope has been added
 - Put the victim impact statement envelope in another envelope (for mailing)
 - On the mailing envelope, write the address of the courthouse where the trial will be held
 - Mail the envelope to that courthouse (or deliver the envelope your nearest courthouse)
 - If you downloaded the statement;
 - Put the victim impact statement in an envelope, and write the address of the courthouse where the trial will be held
 - Mail the envelope to that courthouse (or deliver the envelope your nearest courthouse)
 - Courthouse addresses can be found at: <https://albertacourts.ca>



Please Note

- The accused could be sentenced at any time so **submit your statement quickly**
- Submit your victim impact statement **to the courthouse**
- The victim impact statement is not used to apply for financial support
- The accused and their lawyer will receive a copy of your victim impact statement