

# Victim Impact Statement

A Victim Impact Statement gives you a chance to tell the court how you have been affected by a crime. It is up to you to decide if you want to complete one.

You *can* include this in your Victim Impact Statement

- ✓ How the crime has affected your **mind**
- ✓ How the crime has affected your **body**
- ✓ How the crime has affected you **financially**
- ✓ Fears for your **safety**
- ✓ You can **draw a picture, write a poem or a letter** to include in your statement if it helps you express the impact the crime has had on you
- ✓ You can read your statement in the presence of a support person that you choose and have a picture with you that was taken before the crime

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

- ✓ Anything about the crime or the offender that isn't about how you were harmed
- ✓ Anything that hasn't been proven in court
- ✓ Anything about a crime where the offender wasn't found guilty
- ✓ Anything about anyone who was part of the investigation or prosecution (police, court workers, lawyers)
- ✓ You can't give your opinion about the sentence, unless asked to by the court
- ✓ Any information you don't want the offender or the public to know

## Get your Victim Impact Statement to the courthouse:

- Tell Victim Services that you are going to do a Victim Impact Statement
- Victim Services can help you understand the process and will tell the court to watch for your Victim Impact Statement
- Make sure you sign the Victim Impact Statement and keep a copy of it for your records
- Put the statement in the blue Victim Impact Statement envelope and seal the envelope
- If you want to read or present the statement in court, check the “I would like to read or present my statement in court” on the outside of the blue envelope
- Put the blue 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 your Victim Impact Statement form to the court as soon as you can
- ✓ The Victim Impact Statement is not used to apply for restitution (to get money back from the offender)
- ✓ The offender will be allowed to read or hear the Victim Impact Statement