

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT



PURPOSE

A victim impact statement informs the judge and/or the Parole Board about how the crime has affected the victim and/or the victim's family. The court may provide your statement to the defendant at sentencing if it deems it appropriate. If you want it to remain confidential, write **CONFIDENTIAL** at the top of the page.

WHO CAN WRITE AN IMPACT STATEMENT?

Victims, their family members, survivors of deceased victims, or anyone who has witnessed the victim's emotional distress may submit an impact statement.

When giving an oral statement, you must address the judge, not the defendant. Even if you speak in court, having a written statement to refer to is recommended.

WHAT SHOULD IT INCLUDE?

Your statement should describe, in your own words, how the crime affected you and/or your loved ones financially, physically, psychologically, and socially.

A victim should:

⇒ Describe financial losses

- Out-of-pocket expenses such as medical bills, lost wages, funeral costs, and property damage.

⇒ Explain physical injuries

- Indicate whether the injuries are temporary or permanent.
- Detail the type of treatment or therapy required and the expected recovery time.

⇒ Describe emotional and psychological effects

- Explain Lasting fears, phobias (e.g. fear of going out, fear of being alone), sleeping disorders, or recurring nightmares.
- Changes in relationships with family, friends, or co-workers.
- Psychological impacts such as feelings of hopelessness, anger, or powerlessness.
- Note any physical effects, such as changes in eating habits, weight loss, or job loss.

⇒ Express thoughts on the offender

- Share your recommendation for sentencing.
- Include any additional information you believe the court should consider.

WHEN TO SUBMIT?

Submit your statement as soon as possible to ensure the judge has time to review it before sentencing.

HOW TO SUBMIT?

⇒ **Fax:** "Attn. Victim/Witness" at **419-213-2777**

⇒ **Email:** LCVictimWitness@co.lucas.oh.us

⇒ **Mail:** **Toledo/Lucas County Victim-Witness Assistance Program**

Lucas County Courthouse
700 Adams St, 3rd Floor
Toledo, Ohio 43604