



# Victim Impact Statement



# What is a Victim Impact Statement

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A victim impact statement is a written statement that provides an opportunity for crown prosecutors and judges to hear about the physical or emotional harm that affects victims of criminal acts. The courts, probation and paroling agencies must take the statement into account when sentencing an offender.

The statement must be descriptive and factual so that the courts can feel the trauma of the victim





# How to write a Victim Impact Statement

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As you prepare your final statement it is important that it clearly articulates the victims of the crime and includes words and phrases describing how the crime affected the victim. You may find that using the following questions may help guide you:

- What was the emotional impact of the crime on employees / customers (threats, weapons)
- What damage was caused by the crime (assault, mischief, property damage)
- What was the financial impact of the crime (Leave of absence, no shows, security guard expense, training, counselling)
- What would you like the court to know about the impact on the location and people who work in the location

# What should not be in your statement

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Don't directly express your anger toward the court or the offender

Don't use unsuitable language, as it will diminish the effectiveness of your statement

Don't describe what you want to happen to the offender in prison

Don't put personal, identifying information in your statement, only use company information.



# When to provide the statement

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With your file to police. **Clearly state on the first page, in the summary of your file, that there is a victim as a result of the incident**

**Advise the responding officer that there is a victim impact statement as part of the file that must be shared with the courts**

Ensure that any direct statements from victims are included with the file

On the cover page of your file to police, identify the number of victim statements in the file

If all statements are not ready at the time an officer attends, advise the lead officer that additional information will be added

Ensure that all statements are completed and delivered within 48hrs





# Victim Impact Statement opening sentence example

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My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I work at (name of company and location.) My job there is( give a description of what you do. On (provide date and approx. time) while working my shift, a person now known to be to be (name of the accused) entered the store and I had the following involvement with them (describe the incident that occurred).

This incident has had the following impact on my life, (write a detailed account of the impact or trauma the offence has had on your life physically, emotionally and/ or financially).

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement.

# References to Provincial forms and guides

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- [Victim Impact Statements - British Columbia](#)
- [Victim Impact Statement – Alberta](#)
- [Victim Impact Statement – Saskatchewan](#)
- [Victim Impact Statements – Manitoba](#)
- [Victim Impact Statement – Ontario](#)
- [Victim Impact Statement – Quebec](#)
- [Victim Impact Statement - New Brunswick](#)
- [Victim Impact Statement - Nova Scotia](#)
- [Victim Impact Statement – Newfoundland & Labrador](#)
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