



## **Victim Assistance Program**

Dear Client,

The Summit County Attorney's Office and Victim Assistance Program is committed to helping crime victims and providing services and support to people in our county who have been hurt by crime. We are sorry that you were victimized and are grateful for your participation in the criminal/juvenile justice process. Your involvement and input are vital to promoting individual and community safety and to holding your offender accountable for the harm s/he has caused.

One of your most important rights as a victim of crime is the opportunity to tell the court how you and your loved ones have been affected by the crime. Your completed "Victim Impact Statement" ensures that your voice is heard as part of the justice process.

It is important for the court to understand the nature of the offense and its impact on you and your loved ones—emotionally, physically and financially. Your Victim Impact Statement will also give the court valuable information that can be used to hold the offender accountable and to promote safety for you and for our community.

We have enclosed a resource package that describes the process for completing the Victim Impact Statement. Any additional information you think is important for the court should be provided as an attachment to your Victim Impact Statement.

We are grateful for your continuing support to the criminal/juvenile justice process. If you have any questions about completing your Victim Impact Statement, please contact the advocates at the Summit County Victim Assistance Office, (435) 615-3850.

Thank you very much.

Victim Advocates

**Enclosures**

## **1. What Is a Victim Impact Statement and How Is It Used?**

Victim Impact Statements provide an opportunity for your voice to be heard by our justice system. When completed, it is an important document that describes how the crime has affected you and your loved ones, and provides input into how the court can best hold the offender accountable for the harm s/he has caused.

As a crime victim, you have the opportunity to use this Victim Impact Statement to describe how this crime affected you and others close to you. This statement has space for you to:

- Describe the crime and its physical, emotional, and financial effects on you and your loved ones.
- Discuss any concerns you may have about your safety and security.
- Address any changes in your life you may have experienced since the crime occurred.
- Offer suggestions for a resolution that is fair, and provide information that will give the offender the opportunity to take responsibility for actions that caused you harm and loss.

If the defendant pleads guilty or is found guilty after trial, your impact statement will help the Honorable Judge Bruce C. Lubeck understand how this crime has affected you and those close to you.

### **Filling Out This Statement Is Voluntary**

*You do not have to fill out a Victim Impact Statement.* However, it may be helpful to the judge when he or she decides what sentence the defendant should receive, and/or any money the defendant may have to reimburse you for expenses you have paid or owe because of this crime. If the judge orders the defendant to pay you restitution, there is no guarantee that the defendant will be able to pay the entire amount. However, a court order for the full amount of your losses is an important component for victims to pursue civil remedies for all of the financial losses associated with this crime. Whether or not you choose to submit a victim impact statement is a decision made by you and your family. It is a voluntary right that you have as a victim of crime.

Please be aware that if you are needed as a witness in this case, you may be notified separately by subpoena to testify in a criminal case. This process is separate of the voluntary Victim Impact Statement and serves an entirely different purpose.

## **2. Suggestions for Completing Your Victim Impact Statement**

The following suggestions and the attached Victim Impact Statement form are offered only as a guide. Please answer as many questions as you wish. If you need more space, you can use additional pages and simply attach them to the form when you return it.

Only you know how to best describe the effects this crime has had on you and those close to you. We realize it may be difficult to describe in words how this crime has affected you, your family and friends. However, your input is vital to determining a sentence that is fair and just, and holding the offender accountable for the harm s/he caused you. The questions that follow are designed to help you and your family complete this important process.

Some victims have found it helpful to write a rough draft of their statement before completing the final statement. If you should need any assistance in completing your Victim Impact Statement, please feel free to contact our office for assistance at (435) 615-3850 or [mprobst@co.summit.ut.us](mailto:mprobst@co.summit.ut.us).

If you would like to tell the court about the **emotional impact** of this crime, you may wish to consider:

- How this crime has affected your lifestyle or those close to you.
- How your feelings about yourself or your life have changed since the crime.
- How your ability to relate to others has changed.
- Any counseling or other support you have obtained to help you cope.

If you or your family members were injured, you may wish to tell the court about the **physical impact** of this crime. You may wish to describe:

- The specific physical injuries you or members of your family suffered.
- How long your injuries lasted or how long they are expected to last.
- Any medical treatment you have received or expect to receive in the future.
- How your physical injuries have affected your lifestyle, i.e. ability to work, enjoy recreational pursuits, etc.

It is very important for the court to understand how this crime has affected your ability to earn a living and how it has affected you financially. If you have paid or owe any money for bills because of this crime, please fill out the **financial impact** section of the statement. It is important to be as accurate and complete as possible when listing your costs because this information will be used by the prosecutor, probation officer and judge to help them determine what restitution the defendant must pay to you.

### **3. Who Has Access to Your Victim Impact Statement?**

Your statement will become an official court document after it is given to the court, and will become part of the defendant's permanent file. The judge, prosecutor, and probation officer will read your statement. In addition, prison and parole officials may read your statement if the defendant is sentenced to a prison/detention term.

The defendant and the defendant's attorney will also be able to read what you have written. They may even be able to ask you questions about your statement in court.

*However, the defendant will not be able to see your address and telephone number because you are not asked to put them on your statement.*

You also have the right to speak to the judge at the time of sentencing. If you would like to do so, please contact our office immediately so we can facilitate your oral statement to the court.

#### **4. Crime Victim Reparations (CVR)**

If you are a victim of a crime involving violence or resulting in personal injury, you may be able to receive financial help from the Crime Victim Reparations Fund. This program can pay you back for certain out-of-pocket expenses for physical or emotional injuries received as a direct result of a crime. These expenses may include medical bills, counseling costs, funeral bills, and lost wages and support. This is not the same as restitution. You may be able to receive money to help you with some of your medical bills even before you go to court.

You can file for benefits immediately following the crime even if no arrest has been made. If you would like more information about the possible benefits available, or how to apply for victim compensation, please contact our office for assistance, or contact the **Office of Crime Victim Reparations** directly at: 350 East 500 South Suite 200, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, (801) 238-2360 or Toll Free 1-800-621-7444, Fax (801) 533-4127.

#### **For Help With Your Victim Impact Statement**

Please return your completed Impact Statement to our office ASAP. If you have any questions while writing your Impact Statement or if you would like to speak to the judge at sentencing, please contact our office immediately so we can help set this up for you. If our office can help you in any way at all contact us at: Victim Assistance Program, 6300 N. Silver Creek Dr., Box #5, Park City, Utah 84098, (435) 615-3850 Fax: (435) 615-3852, Email: [scvap@co.summit.ut.us](mailto:scvap@co.summit.ut.us). If you need more space to answer any of the following questions, or if you have additional information that is not addressed by these questions, please use as much paper as you need, and simply attach these sheets of paper to this impact statement. Thank you.

# VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

**YOU CAN FILL IN THIS FORM OR WRITE YOUR STATEMENT IN YOUR OWN WAY. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO USE THIS FORM. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO COMPLETE EVERY SECTION.**

Name of victim: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of offender: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of offence: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Physical**

*You can include the injuries you received, any treatment you may have had and the ongoing physical effects. If you have additional information, such as a doctor's report or photographs, you can attach it to this form.*

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## **Emotional**

*You can include psychological or emotional effects on your sense of wellbeing and enjoyment of life. If you have additional information, such as a report from a psychologist or counselor, you can attach it to this form.*

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## **Financial**

*You can include loss of wages or income or other expenses incurred as a result of the crime. If you have additional information, such as your pay slip, you can attach it to this form.*

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**Property damage or loss**

*You can include damage to clothing, glasses, and tools, your home, or loss of property, which has not been recovered. If you have additional information you can attach it to this form.*

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**Other relevant information**

*This may include information such as how your life has changed as a result of the crime and anything else you want to tell the judge or magistrate which has **not** been included in other sections. If you have additional information you can attach it to this form.*

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**Sentence**

*You can include what you would like the judge or magistrate to order in relation to the offender such as imprisonment, fine or bond.*

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I consent to the presentation of this Victim Impact Statement to the judge or commissioner.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed Victim Impact Statement to our office ASAP.  
**Victim Assistance Program**                      **NOTE: This form is not to be used to apply for**  
**6300 N. Silver Creek Dr. Box #5**                      **Crime Victim Reparations (CVR).**  
**Park City, UT 84098**  
**Fax: (435) 615-3852 / E-mail: scvap@co.summit.ut.us**