

**VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT GUIDELINES**

**Re: People v. (DEFENDANT NAME)**  
**Indictment No.:**  
**Sentencing date:**  
**Honorable (JUDGE)**

In regards to the above referenced case, you have a right to submit a Victim Impact Statement for the judge's consideration prior to sentencing the defendant.

The Victim Impact Statement is your personal account of how the crime affected your life, how your life was before the crime compared to afterwards. You may also include your observations of the crimes impact on others as well.

Information you may want to consider including in your Victim Impact Statement letter:

**Physical Impact**

- ✓physical injuries
- ✓disfigurement, disability
- ✓ongoing medical treatment and rehabilitation.

**Emotional/Psychological Impact**

- ✓your feelings about the crime
- ✓any feelings of guilt, anger, fear, anxiety, etc.
- ✓depression
- ✓any safety or security concerns
- ✓sleep disturbances (insomnia, nightmares, etc.)
- ✓counseling.

**Your recommendations for sentencing and why.**

**Financial Impact**

- ✓medical bills
- ✓counseling expenses
- ✓transportation expenses to and from medical appointments and court
- ✓loss of income.

**Lifestyle/Family/Social Impact**

- ✓change in daily/nightly routine
- ✓child care
- ✓change in family structure (ie: divorce, having to move, etc.)
- ✓events and activities you no longer attend or participate in.

Victim Impact Statement letters can be hand written or typed. Please try to use standard size paper.

Letters should not include your address or telephone number.

Photographs may be included but please be advised that they will not be returned.

In addition to your letter, letters may be submitted by family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors and anyone else whom you feel was impacted by the crime.

Letters should be addressed to 'Your Honor' or 'Judge \_\_\_\_\_' but returned to and in accordance with the due date below.

**Return all letters to:**

**(YOUR NAME)**  
**Erie County District Attorney's Office**  
**Victim/Witness Bureau**  
**25 Delaware Ave.**  
**Buffalo, NY 14202**

**Letters due: (DATE)**

Victim Impact Statements are copied, bound and distributed as one document. The original is forwarded to the Judge, copies are forwarded to the Assistant District Attorney, defense attorney and probation officer. You are provided with a copy and one is kept on file at the Victim/Witness Bureau.

You may be contacted by an officer of the Erie County Probation Department and asked to complete a probation Victim Impact Statement form as part of his pre-sentence investigation report. You can complete the form in addition to, or instead of, a letter/s. If you choose to disregard the probation form and write a letter/s only, please contact the Probation Officer and let him know that you are forwarding Victim Impact Statement letters to the Victim/Witness Bureau.

Please contact me at (716) 858-(**EXT.**) or (**EMAIL**) for assistance or any further information in this regard.

Very Truly Yours,

FRANK A. SEDITA, III  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

BY: (**NAME**)  
(**TITLE**)  
Victim/Witness Bureau