

The State of South Carolina



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Purpose of the Victim Impact Statement

The Victim Impact Statement is a form used by the Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office to inform the Judge of the victim's feelings about their case. It also provides the Court with the amount of medical and other expenses associated with the physical injuries and property losses as a result of the crime. The form gives the Court needed information if the victim is unable to be present for the case disposition. A copy of this completed form is furnished to other agencies for any future contact with the victim regarding possible probation violations, parole eligibility or status of incarceration at the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

Please complete the form in as much detail as possible. You may attach additional sheets of paper if needed. It is recommended that you write a "Dear Judge" letter stating if you recommend probation, restitution, counseling, Pre-Trial Intervention (PTI), some jail time or any combination of the previous. Please understand that if the Court considers your request for a maximum sentence, there may be little or no chance of complete restitution.

If your case involves a Juvenile Offender through the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), indicate your recommendation for contract services (similar to PTI), probation, counseling or placement in a DJJ correctional facility. When the Court commits the juvenile to a facility, restitution will not be addressed until the juvenile's parole hearing.

Instructions for completing your Victim Impact Statement

Begin by completing the shaded portion with your current contact information. If you are completing this form for someone else, please list the name of the victim and your name if you will be the contact person for purpose of notification. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO INFORM THIS OFFICE OF ANY CHANGES TO YOUR ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBER.**

Next please list all financial losses. Remember to attach copies of receipts, bills, estimates and other financial documents.

The final section on the front requests that you indicate if you wish to be notified of court proceedings pertaining to your case. It is your right to be notified of all pre and post-conviction hearings.

The back of the form lists of series of questions that you may answer individually or by letter to the Judge. Please remember to sign and date the form.

Mail the completed form back to the Victim/ Witness Office within 2 weeks of receipt in the enclosed envelope. Failure to return this form or respond to notices about your case may result in the case being disposed of without your input.