

DEVELOPING A VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT TIPS FOR ADVOCATES

When assisting the victim with the victim impact statement, the following questions may be used as a guide:

How has the crime affected the victim's...?

- general feelings of psychological health or enjoyment of life (emotions or feelings, such as hurt, anger, fear, depression, or anxiety)
- physical health
- relationships with family, friends, partner, or work/school colleagues
- lifestyle and activities (such as trouble sleeping, eating, working, attending school)
- future life plans or goals
- caregiver's or family's psychological or physical health
- financial status (such as missed work or loss of a job)

The questions above are a starting point. A victim should also include anything else that they feel would be important for the Court to know. The victim should be allowed to express themselves as they wish and explain how they have been affected by the crime. Often, the Court will give the victim guidelines for the Victim Impact Statement before the sentencing of the offender. Writing the statement may be difficult for some victims, therefore, the Victim Advocate/Family Advocate should be as supportive as possible to the victim and caregiver.

