

# Community Impact Statement

A Community Impact Statement gives the community an opportunity to tell the court how it has been affected by the crime. Community Impact Statements are voluntary, and are completed by a representative of the community. Contact your local Victim Service Unit if you have any questions about submitting a Community Impact Statement.

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## Who can be a representative? And what is a community?

### **Representative:**

A person who belongs to the community, and who has been chosen by the community to write the statement

### **Community:**

A group of people, such as those living in the same geographic area, belonging to diverse segments of the population, or any groups affected by the crime.



## What can be included in a Community Impact Statement?

- How the crime has affected you:
  - emotionally
  - physically
  - financially
- Fears community members now have for their safety or the safety of family and friends
- You can **draw a picture, write a poem or a letter** to include in the statement if it helps you express how the crime affected your community



## What cannot be included in a Community Impact Statement?

- Anything about the crime or the accused that is not directly related to the crime
- Anything that has not been proven in court
- Anything the accused was not found guilty of
- Any opinion about the sentence or criminal justice system, unless approved by the court
- Any information you do not want the accused or the public to know

## Submit the Community Impact Statement to the courthouse

- Tell your Victim Services Unit that the community is going to submit a Community Impact Statement
  - The Victim Services Unit can help the community representative understand the process
- Get the Community Impact Statement form from the Victim Services Unit, or go online and download the statement: [Community Impact Statement form](#)
- Complete the statement
  - If you want to read or present the statement in court on behalf of the community, check the “I would like to present the statement in court” on the statement
  - Make sure to sign and date the statement
  - Make a copy of the completed statement to keep for your records
- Submit the statement
  - If you received the statement from the Victim Services Unit;
    - Put the statement in the Community Impact Statement envelope and seal the envelope
    - Make sure all of the information on the outside of the Community Impact Statement envelope has been added
    - Put the Community Impact Statement envelope in another envelope that is addressed to the courthouse.
    - Mail or Deliver the envelope to the courthouse
  - If you downloaded the statement, you can either;
    - Email the statement to the courthouse where the trial will be held
    - Mail or Deliver the statement to the courthouse where the trial will be held
    - Emails and addresses can be found at: <http://www.alberta.ca/community-impact-statement.aspx>



### Please Note

- The accused could be sentenced at any time so **submit your statement quickly**
- Submit the Community Impact Statement **to the courthouse**
- The Community Impact Statement is not used to apply for financial support
- The accused and their lawyer will receive a copy of the Community Impact Statement
- A Community Impact Statement cannot be used to support an accused