

# Manitoba Victim Impact Statement Guidelines

The Victim Impact Statement form may be used to provide a description of the physical or emotional harm, property damage or economic loss suffered by you as the result of the commission of an offence, as well as a description of the impact of the offence on you. You may attach additional pages if you need more space.

You may present a detailed account of the impact the offence has had on your life. You are not required to include all of the information suggested on the Victim Impact Statement form.

## Information that you should include in your statement:

A Victim Impact Statement speaks only to the emotional, physical and financial impact the crime has had on you. It is possible that your statement may not be used by the court if you include information that is not supposed to be in the statement.

When writing your statement, you should:

- be truthful and accurate
- give details of any physical and/or emotional injuries you have suffered because of the crime
- outline any treatment or therapy you may have received or needed
- give details of any financial loss you may have suffered. This may include but is not limited to:
  - the cost of insurance deductibles
  - time lost from work
  - medical expenses not covered by insurance

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**Note:** If you choose to present your statement in court, you may bring a photo of the victim.

## Your statement must not include:

- any statement about the offence or the offender that is not relevant to the harm or loss you suffered
- any unproven allegations
- any comments about any offence for which the offender was not convicted
- any complaint about any individual, other than the offender, who was involved in the investigation or prosecution of the offence
- except with the court's approval, an opinion or recommendation about the sentence

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**Note:** You may be called upon to testify in court and be asked questions about your Victim Impact Statement. If you provide any conflicting or false information, this may have a negative impact on the outcome of the case.

## The Victim Impact Statement is not confidential

Once your statement has been submitted, the content of your statement will be reviewed. Your statement will then be disclosed. Disclosure means that the Crown attorney must forward a copy of your Victim Impact Statement to the offender and/or the offender's lawyer.

Once the statement has been filed in open court it becomes a public document and discussions around the content of your statement may be presented and recorded on the court record.