

For additional information and assistance on material covered in this brochure:

**California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services**

Juvenile Services Unit

P.O. Box 942883

Sacramento, CA 94283-0001

(916) 262-0896

(916) 262-1181 Fax

http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Victim_Services/victim_intro.html

ovssinet@cdcr.ca.gov

**California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Juvenile Parole Board**

4241 Williamsborough Drive #223

Sacramento, CA 95823

(916) 262-1426

(916) 262-2682 Fax

www.cdcr.ca.gov/DivisionsBoards/BOPH/index.html

**VICTIM IMPACT
STATEMENT**

**IT IS
YOUR RIGHT**

For financial assistance to crime victims:

Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board

P.O. Box 3036

Sacramento, CA 95812-3036

(800) 777-9229

www.victimcompensation.ca.gov

info@vcgcb.ca.gov

For additional resources/assistance:

**Victims of Crime Resource Center
McGeorge School of Law**

3200 Fifth Avenue

Sacramento, CA 95817

(916) 739-7056

(800) VICTIMS / (800) 842-8467

(916) 739-7395 Fax

www.1800victims.org

victim2@pacific.edu

**Office of the Attorney General
Office of Victims' Services**

P.O. Box 944255

Sacramento, CA 95814

(877) 433-9069 toll-free

www.ag.ca.gov/victimservices

victimservices@doj.ca.gov

Victim/Witness Assistance Centers
(Call your local District Attorney's Office)

**California Department of
Corrections and Rehabilitation**

**Office of Victim and Survivor Rights
and Services
Juvenile Services Unit**



**A Guide for Writing
Victim Impact Statements**

After the offender is committed to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), one of your important rights as a victim of crime is the opportunity to attend the offender's case hearings to tell the people making decisions about the offender who committed the crime against you how you and your loved ones have been affected by the crime. Your *victim impact statement* ensures that your voice is heard.

There are two types of hearings held by the Juvenile Parole Board (JPB) for offenders committed to DJJ: (1) Annual Case Review (ACR) and (2) Parole Consideration Hearing (PCH). You may request to attend either or both hearings to present your *victim impact statement*.

Annual Case Review (ACR)

The ACR is held every year after the offender's commitment to the DJJ, until the offender paroled. At this hearing the JPB reviews the offender's progress and reevaluates the offender's program goals. The offender is not considered for parole at ACR hearings.

Parole Consideration Hearing (PCH)

DJJ sets a parole consideration hearing date based on the offender's most recent offense at the time of the offender's commitment to DJJ. On or before the parole consideration date, the offender will appear before the JPB for a parole consideration hearing. The JPB members may release the offender to parole if they determine the offender has successfully completed all of the established program goals.

At both types of hearings, the JPB reviews the offender's progress with the offender present. The offender is expected to acknowledge and discuss his/her victimizing behavior.

What is the purpose of a *victim impact statement* and how is it used?

Victim impact statements provide an opportunity for JPB members and the offender's treatment team to understand how this crime has affected you, your family, and those close to you. Many victims have found it helpful to voice how their lives have been impacted by the crime committed against them.

Additionally, your impact statement provides an opportunity for the treatment team working with the offender to incorporate victim issues in the offender's program goals. Without your input many offenders may never know the true impact of their actions.

What should I include in my statement?

Only you know how to best describe the effects this crime has had on you and those close to you. We realize it may be difficult to describe in words how this crime has affected you. Some victims have found it helpful to write a rough draft of their statement before completing the final impact statement.

If you would like to share the emotional and mental impact you may consider:

- How this crime has affected your lifestyle or those close to you.
- How your feelings about yourself or your life have changed since the crime.
- How your ability to relate to others has changed.
- Any counseling or other support you have obtained to help you cope.

- Fees you incurred for counseling or therapy for you and your family members.

If you or your family members were injured you may wish to describe:

- The specific physical injuries you or members of your family have suffered.
- How long your injuries lasted or how long you expect them to last.
- Any medical treatment you have received or expect to receive in the future and the medical expenses you have incurred.
- Your inability to work and lost wages.

Do I have to make a *victim impact statement*?

It's your choice whether you make a *victim impact statement*. However, no one knows better than you how this crime has changed your life. It is very important for you to help the JPB members and the offender's treatment team understand all of the ways this crime has affected you and those close to you. Whether or not you choose to submit a *victim impact statement* is a decision made by you and your family. It is a voluntary right that you have as a victim of crime.

If you choose not to attend a hearing but would like your impact statement read, you can mail or fax your statement to our office and someone will read it for you.

You may have completed a victim statement for court purposes; however your statement may not have been sent to our office. If you would like your statement on file, please contact our office.

"A victim gets plugged into the system when it's convenient for the system...and forgets them when they've served their purpose. I think that a Victim Impact Statement balances the scales of justice. "For once the victim has an advocate...his/her words."
- Victim