



Victim's Right to be Heard at Sentencing

As the victim of a violent crime, **you have the right to be heard at sentencing.** When providing your statement, you may speak extemporaneously or you may prepare a written statement, which may be read aloud by you or a representative of your choosing. When preparing your statement for the sentencing hearing, consider organizing it by the emotional, physical, and financial effects of the crime.

You will not be placed under oath or subject to cross-examination when you present your impact statement. No part of your impact statement should be stricken or edited. If you choose to prepare a statement in writing, you can request that the prosecutor send a copy of your statement to the Prison Review Board (PRB).

The judge will consider the information you provide in your statement when deciding what sentence to hand down.

Here are some topics you may want to include your statement:

- Describe how the crime has affected your lifestyle and /or the lifestyle of those close to you.
- If you or your family member(s) were injured, discuss the physical impact of the crime.
- Describe the physical or emotional injuries you or members of your family have suffered.
- Describe any medical treatment you have received or expect to receive in the future.
- Discuss how the crime affected your ability to earn a living and how it has affected you financially (did you have to move, experience job loss, do you require professional care, etc.).

If you have questions or would like more information about presenting a statement, contact your victim/witness coordinator or speak with the prosecutor handling your case.

Crime Victims Assistance Line

1-800-228-3368

www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov