

A Community Impact Statement is a voluntary statement, prepared by an individual on behalf of a community regarding a criminal offence, which may be used for sentencing purposes in criminal matters.

Before sentencing the offender, an individual on behalf of the community, may file with the court a statement which describes the harm or loss suffered by the community as a result of the offence.

As a representative of the community, you have the right to:

- participate in the sentencing process by completing a Community Impact Statement;
- (1) read the Community Impact Statement in court or (2) ask the judge if you may read it in another room while being viewed by the court or ask the judge to allow you to read your statement behind a screen so you do not have to see the offender (3) or ask the judge that a person you feel safe with sit near you while you read your statement or (4) present the statement in any other manner the court deems appropriate;
- ask the court to adjourn or postpone the sentencing to allow you time to write a Community Impact Statement; and
- have a photograph before the offence was committed if it would not disrupt the proceedings;

The Community Impact Statement may be written on the attached form and prepared in your own words describing the impact of a criminal offence on the community. You may complete the Community Impact Statement on your own or seek the help of Victim Services in your area. Do not discuss the details of the crime such as time, date, location, sequence of events or refer to any other crime. Please do not include an opinion on the sentencing or the character of the offender or provide reasons for the offender's behaviour.

Copies of the Community Impact Statement are given to the sentencing Judge, Crown Attorney and Defense Counsel only after there is a finding of guilt. Please note – the offender will have access to the statement. You could be cross-examined in court on the content of the Community Impact Statement. If you are required to testify, you may be questioned by Defense Counsel and/or the offender (if he/she is unrepresented), on the Community Impact Statement. This happens infrequently.

When a Community Impact Statement is submitted to the court it becomes public information. The media may include all or part of the statement in any news reports. If there is a publication ban, however, your identity and any content that may identify you would be protected.

Victim Services is responsible for preparing the Community Impact Statement for submission to the court. Once you have written the statement, provide it to Victim Services

who will advise the court that a statement has been prepared. Victim Services may discuss the content of your statement with you to ensure it meets the provisions of the Criminal Code.

For information and assistance with a Community Impact Statement, you can contact a Victim Services Coordinator at the following locations:

<b>St. John's</b>	709-729-0900
<b>Carbonear</b>	709-945-3019 or 709-945-3046
<b>Clareville</b>	709-466-5808
<b>Marystown</b>	709-279-3216
<b>Gander</b>	709-256-1028 or 709-256-1070
<b>Grand Falls-Windsor</b>	709-292-4544 or 709-292-4548
<b>Corner Brook</b>	709-637-2603 or 709-637-2465
<b>Stephenville</b>	709-643-6588 or 709-643-6618
<b>Port Saunders</b>	709-861-2147
<b>Happy Valley-Goose Bay</b>	709-896-0446 or 709-896-3251
<b>Nain</b>	709-922-2360