

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.



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 Community Impact 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 (for mailing)
 - On the mailing envelope, write the address of the courthouse where the trial will be held
 - Mail the envelope to that courthouse (or deliver the envelope your nearest courthouse)
 - If you downloaded the statement;
 - Put the Community Impact Statement in an envelope, and write the address of the courthouse where the trial will be held
 - Mail the envelope to that courthouse (or deliver the envelope your nearest courthouse)
 - Courthouse addresses can be found at: <https://albertacourts.ca>



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