

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

A Community Impact Statement is a description of how a crime or series of crimes have affected you and your community. This statement is submitted to the Court by prosecutors to provide information that can assist the Court in making sentencing decisions about offenders convicted of the crime(s). While the U.S. Attorney's Office can't guarantee what weight, if any, the court will give a community impact statement, information from the community has been helpful in the past in focusing the court on specific ways specific crimes impact particular neighborhoods.

To make a community impact statement, you may use this form that will be given to the court at sentencing. You are encouraged to submit a single community impact statement on behalf of the entire community – speaking with one voice vastly increases the likelihood that your concerns will be heard loud and clear at sentencing. Victim Advocates are available at the U.S. Attorney's Office to assist in preparing your community impact statement and can be reached at (202) 514-7130. Likewise, Community Prosecutors and Community Outreach Specialists from the U.S. Attorney's Office are assigned to each police district and can work with you to identify appropriate cases in which to submit a community impact statement. They also would be happy to meet with your group or association as you develop your community impact statement.

In completing your statement, you may wish to consider the following:

- (1) How has this crime affected you and your community?
- (2) Has it had a negative affect on your community's attitudes about itself? (For example, has the crime given rise in the community to feelings of anger, rage, vulnerability, fear, paranoia, hopelessness, frustration, or loss of trust and faith in society?)
- (3) What is the social or economic impact of this crime on your neighborhood? (For example, are children kept indoors more, is it more difficult to safely use parks, are businesses less likely to stay or come to your neighborhood, have you spent more money or other resources as a result of being a crime victim?)
- (4) What is needed to return your neighborhood to the conditions that existed prior to the crime being committed.
- (5) What do you think is an appropriate sentence for this offense?

In order to allow time for your community impact statement to be submitted and fully considered by the sentencing judge, please return the completed community impact statements at least 10 days prior to the sentencing date to:

LaJune Thames
U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia
555 4th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

When submitting a Community Impact Statement, please provide the name, number, and address of a contact person, but do not put this information on the Community Impact Statement itself. This information WILL NOT be shared outside the USAO and law enforcement but will be used should we have questions concerning your submission.

Community Impact Statement

Please complete the following:

Community Group/Association: _____

Neighborhood/Area _____

Defendant's Name: _____

Case #: _____

Sentencing Date: _____
