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# Appendix J

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# COUNTY OF ULSTER

KINGSTON NEW YORK 12401

CRIME VICTIMS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
5 Pearl Street  
Kingston New York 12401



TEL (845) 340-3443  
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## Suggestions for preparing a VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

Please feel free to contact the Crime Victim Assistance Program for support or assistance preparing your statement. If you have a concern about confidentiality or safety, please ask for further information.

A Victim Impact Statement is a personal, written explanation of how the crime that was committed against you has affected your life. If you choose to write one, it is included in a Pre-Sentence Investigation that the Probation Department submits to the judge in order to assist the judge in determining an appropriate sentence for this crime.

Because the statement reflects your thoughts and feelings, you are encouraged to describe the events and the impact in your own words. Typically, a Victim Impact Statement touches on several ways that the crime has affected the victim's life. The following list of questions is offered to suggest possible areas for consideration. The questions may also help you to organize a brief, concise statement, which usually begins with a short explanation of what happened and its effect upon the victims, and closes with suggestions concerning sentencing.

How has this crime affected you and your family? Do you anticipate that it will continue to impact upon you in the future?

What is the *emotional impact* of the offense upon you and/or your family?

What is the *financial impact* of the crime? If you have receipts or bills that document the expenses, please submit copies with your statement so that restitution can be requested.

What were the *physical impacts* of the crime? If there are lasting physical effects or consequences of the crime, it is valuable for the judge to know this.

Do you have a recommendation regarding the sentencing of this person? The Probation Officer, or Victim Assistance Counselor can tell you what is a legally allowable sentencing resulting from this offense. If there are particular issues that you feel should be addressed by the court, such as drug/alcohol abuse or mental health problems, you may suggest that the sentence include special requirements like drug/alcohol treatment or participation in an anger management program.

Are there other factors that you feel the court should be aware of? Do you feel that the offender has accepted responsibility for his/her actions? Are you afraid of this person? Do you want the judge to know about related issues (like prior incidents that were never reported)? You may request an Order of Protection for yourself and family members who continue to be at risk from this person.