

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.



Definitions of a community and a representative are:

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.

Representative:

A person who belongs to the community, and who has been chosen by the community to write the statement



A community impact statement CAN include:

- How the crime has affected you:
 - emotionally, physically, and/or 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



A community impact statement CANNOT include:

- 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

How to submit a community impact statement:

- Tell your Victim Service Unit that the community is going to submit a community impact statement
 - The Victim Service Unit can help the community representative understand the process
- Access the community impact statement form online at <https://cfr.forms.gov.ab.ca/Form/VIC12467.xdp> or through a Victim Service Unit
- 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 Service 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