

If all the statements below are true, you may be able to get help from the Crime Victims Compensation Program for crime related expenses.

- The crime was reported to police within 72 hours of the crime or discovery of the crime.
- This application is being filed within one year of the date of crime or discovery of the crime.
- The victim suffered physical or emotional injuries as a result of a violent crime, drunk driving, or hit and run.
- The victim cooperated with the reasonable requests of law enforcement.
- The victim did NOT provoke or incite the crime.
- The victim was NOT assisting in, attempting to, or committing a criminal act at the time he/she was injured.
- The applicant is the victim, or a parent or guardian who is responsible for the victim's care and expenses.



VICTIM/WITNESS ASSISTANCE

Pembina County

Monica - Coordinator

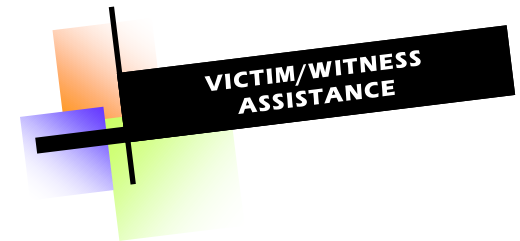
301 Dakota Street West #14

Cavalier, ND 58220

pcvicwit@nd.gov

701.265.5181

*\*Pembina County Victim Witness Assistance does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability and age, in the delivery of services.*



# VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

*An  
Informational  
Guide*

## ***What is a Victim Impact Statement?***

A Victim Impact Statement is a form used by you, to explain in your own words how you and the people close to you have been affected by a crime. The statement may include: an explanation of the nature and extent of any physical, psychological, or emotional harm; an explanation of the extent of any economic loss or property damage suffered; an opinion of the need for and extent of restitution; and the victim's recommendation for an appropriate sentence.

## ***Who may complete a Victim Impact Statement?***

A Victim Impact Statement may be submitted by the victim, family members of a deceased victim, or parents of a victim who is a child. Sometimes the court will allow statements from other family and friends of the victim.

## ***How will my Victim Impact Statement be used?***

The information that you give in your statement will help the court understand the full effect of the crime and will be considered before a decision/sentence is rendered. This statement will be submitted to the Judge at the time of sentencing and will also be shared with the State's Attorney and possibly with the defense attorney, the defendant and in some cases with a probation or parole officer. If an oral impact statement is given it will be given under oath and will be subject to cross examination by the defense.

## ***How do I complete the Victim Impact Statement?***

The Victim Impact Statement should be written in your own words. It can be handwritten or typed. Ensure that it is easy to read. Keep your descriptions brief but don't leave out anything you believe is important for the Court to consider. Describe the emotional, physical, and economic effects that the crime has had on you and your family.

***Emotional:*** When completing this description you may consider some of the following:

- Do you feel fearful, vulnerable, helpless, violated or angry?
- Do you feel uncomfortable or frightened in your own home?
- Have you changed your lifestyle? Do you restrict your activities?
- Has the crime affected your relationship with your partner, spouse, friends, family or colleagues?
- Has the crime affected your ability to work or study?

***Physical:*** Consider how the crime has physically changed your life.

- Do you have illnesses or physical discomfort as a result of the crime?
- Have you received treatment for the physical harm, or will you require treatment in the future?
- Do you have any permanent or long term disability or injury as a result of the crime?

***Economic:*** Describe any property lost or damaged and any loss suffered as a result of missed work. Include costs associated with required court appearances.

## ***Do I have to complete a Victim***

## ***Impact Statement?***

No. Submitting a Victim Impact Statement is completely voluntary.

## ***May I have someone help me complete my Victim Impact Statement?***

Yes, but it is important to remember that the Victim Impact Statement should be in your own words.

## ***Will I receive compensation for the financial impacts I describe in my Victim Impact Statement?***

The court must consider ordering the offender to make restitution to cover the costs of your injuries, damages, or loss. However, an order does not guarantee restitution will be paid and many times payment is unlikely or even impossible. The prosecutor will make every effort to ensure that restitution is paid if it is ordered.

*North Dakota law (Crime Victims Compensation Program) provides monetary compensation to victims of violent crimes who suffer bodily injury. Victims may be eligible for payments of medical expenses, lost wages and mental health counseling. Dependents of deceased victims may also be eligible for certain benefits.*