

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

Defendant Name: _____

Cause Number: _____

The Victim Impact Statement (VIS) is a vital part of the judicial process. It is your chance to tell the judge how this crime has affected you, your family, and your community. There are several ways of doing this:

- 1) You may write to the judge telling him or her how this crime has affected you. If you choose to compose a written statement, please type and spell check the document if possible, however, handwritten statements are acceptable.
- 2) You may make a video tape or audio tape.
- 3) You may present photographs or drawings.
- 4) You can make a verbal statement at sentencing.
- 5) Any other way that you can think of to demonstrate to the judge how this crime has affected you. You can be as creative as you wish, so long as it is reasonably easy to present to the judge in a courtroom.

You may wish to consider some of the following when creating your VIS: What has changed in your life since this crime occurred? What adjustments will or have you had to make because of this crime? How has this crime affected you emotionally or psychologically? What would you like to happen to the defendant? How has this crime affected your community? Is this crime a culmination of other crimes/violence perpetrated by the defendant? What fears or hopes do you have? How has this crime affected your position in your family or community? What has been the financial impact on your family?

If you choose to do a VIS, please include this cover sheet with the statement and include the defendant's name and cause number on the VIS as it appears at the top of this cover sheet. You should also know that the VIS may be seen by the defendant. Please avoid including any of your identifying information, such as your name or relationship to the defendant, anywhere but on this cover sheet if you do not wish the defendant to know who compiled the VIS.

All Victim Impact Statements should be addressed to the judge, i.e. "Honorable Judge," and should be sent to the Victim/Witness Unit, Franklin County Prosecutor's Office, 1016 N 4th Avenue, Pasco, WA 99301 or can be faxed to (509) 545-2135 or e-mailed to victim@co.franklin.wa.us. If you need assistance creating your statement, please contact the Victim/Witness Unit at (509) 545-3543.

Print Name

Signature

Telephone Number

Date

Please mark any that apply:

- I DO NOT wish to submit a Victim Impact Statement.
 I would like to make a verbal statement at sentencing.