

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT (CIS)

Your rights

Community members impacted by the crime have the *right* to submit a written impact statement at the sentencing hearing as authorized by Minn. Stat. § 611A.038.

What is a Community Impact Statement (CIS)?

A Community Impact Statement provides the opportunity for residents to speak out on individuals or businesses whose activities affected their sense of safety and well-being in their neighborhood. These are the information that cannot be found in police reports.

Community Impact Statement describes to the court (in your own words) that tells exactly how your life has been affected and changed as a result of a crime or crime pattern. It can describe any financial, physical, and important emotional effects (or all three) that a crime or crime pattern has had on you and your community where the offense(s) occurred.

This is your opportunity to become more involved and to have a voice in the criminal justice system.

Who can complete a Community Impact Statement?

1. Anyone who is impacted by the individual(s) can complete the Community Impact Statement, and the statement can be filled out for past or present cases.
2. It can either be a compilation of experiences and impacts of a number of people, signed by all, or individual statements prepared by several people.
3. If you are writing as a group, state who you are, a neighborhood association, a block of residents, residents sharing a corner, etc.

What information may be included in a Community Impact Statement (CIS)?

1. Full name of offender and address of offender, if known.
2. Court File and/or police report number, if known.
3. Date that the Impact Statement is being written
4. Name, address and telephone number of person(s) writing the CIS.
5. Brief summary of events/criminal activity that lead to the CIS.
6. Describe how this illegal activity has affected your normal way of living. The more specific you can be, the more helpful it is for the judge. Give specific examples, e.g., being constantly awakened at night by loud arguments, music, and horn honking; fearing to have the children in the household be out at night; or having neighbors or friends decline from visiting you in your home.)
7. It is **okay to list multiple areas of impact but keep your statement concise and direct.**
8. Statements should include **all** adverse social or economic effects the offense(s) has had on persons who reside in the neighborhood where the offense(s) was committed.

- a. Your feelings, thoughts, and comments about how this crime has affected you and your family
 - b. The ways in which your life has changed as a result.
 - c. The effect this crime has had on you emotionally, physically and financially, if appropriate.
 - d. The challenges or difficulties you face due to this crime.
9. You may tell a story (concisely) behind some **of your** statements. This serves two purposes: First, it makes the victimization tangible for the judge. Second, it allows the community to speak for individuals without requiring that the individual be present.
10. Your opinion regarding the plea agreement and/or consequences that you would like the judge to consider.
- a. Tell the judge what you need to return to your status before the crimes) were committed.
 - b. The goal is to give the judge information s/he can use when sentencing or ordering conditions of probation for the defendant. Be creative and try to avoid overly retributive suggestions. The judge will most likely respond to a suggestion that restores both the victim and the offender. Community service, restitution, no contact/trespass orders and chemical dependency evaluation are all tools accessible to the court. Let the judge know if any of these results would help restore you to your way of life before the crime was committed.

How is a Community Impact Statement provided to the court?

- Upon completion, please sign and mail or deliver this information to your district crime prevention coordinator and/or your community prosecutor c/o St. Paul City Attorney's Office, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd., Ste 500, St. Paul, MN 55102 (for misdemeanor/gross misdemeanor offenses) and to Ramsey County Attorney's Office, 15 West Kellogg Blvd., Suite 300, St. Paul, MN 55102 (for felony offenses and juvenile offender).
- A community member also has the right to have the letter read to the court by the prosecutor at the sentencing hearing.
- After a guilty plea or guilty verdict, the judge will schedule a sentencing hearing. A probation officer will be assigned to do a pre-sentence investigation report to the judge for the sentencing hearing. The probation officer's job is to gather information from the offender and other sources, including members of the community, and make a final sentencing recommendation to the judge.
- **Anonymous impact statements are inadmissible in court.** However, if a community member asks and the court agrees, their name can be protected as confidential information. This means that the defendant will not be given the name or names of the community members who submitted the Community Impact Statement.

SAMPLE FORMAT

Community Impact Statement

Date: _____

Offender's Name (if known): _____

Court File (if known): _____

Police Report Number (if known): _____

Please describe the individual's actions and how it affected you or your business:

Sample

Your Name: _____

Your Contact Phone Number: _____

Your Address: _____