

HAMILTON COUNTY ADULT PROBATION VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENTS

As a victim of crime, you have the right to give a Victim Impact Statement. Victim Impact Statements may be given in person at the time of sentencing or you may be contacted by a probation officer from the Hamilton County Adult Probation Department's Victim Services Unit to make a Victim Impact Statement. The Hamilton County Adult Probation Department is the division of the Court that is tasked with providing these reports for the Court. It does not necessarily mean that the defendant is receiving a term of probation (also known as Community Control).

After a defendant is convicted, the Court may request a Presentence Investigation about the defendant and a Victim Impact Statement from the victim. The case will be set for a sentencing date. As the victim and/or relative of the victim, you may be asked to provide a Victim Impact Statement about any financial losses, physical injuries and emotional impact or changes suffered as a result of the crime. This is a chance for you to voice your feelings about the crime and to provide information that may not have come out in the Court process. You also will have the opportunity to give an opinion about the defendant's possible sentence.

A report containing the information supplied by you will be forwarded to the Judge by the probation officer and will be considered at the time of sentencing.

If you have suffered a financial loss directly as a result of the crime, you may request an order for restitution. The Court requires documentation of your financial losses (receipts, estimates,

replacement costs, proof of insurance deductibles), and the probation officer will ask you to provide this documentation as part of your Victim Impact Statement. The Criminal Court cannot award any compensation for pain and suffering; that can be addressed in Civil Court.

After the defendant is sentenced, the Adult Probation Department's Victim Services Unit will send you a letter about the case disposition and the officer who takes your statement is available to answer any questions you might have. Referrals for counseling and support groups are available. If you are the victim of a violent crime, you may be eligible for financial compensation through the Ohio Victims of Crime Compensation Fund. Application forms are available from the Victim Services Unit by calling 513-946-9634 or the Attorney General's Crime Victim Services Office at 1-800-582-2877.

If the defendant is given a term of probation (community control), you will receive a letter from the supervising probation officer with the officer's contact information. The probation officer will also keep you advised of any status changes in the case, unless you tell the probation officer you wish to opt out of notifications.

If you have any questions about Victim Impact Statements or probation related issues, you may call 513-946-9634 for further information.