

WRITING A VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

A Victim Impact Statement is your opportunity to describe how the crime has impacted your life. The Judge in this case is interested in knowing the personal impact this crime has had on you and/or your family. This statement is one of the most effective means of communicating the voice of the victim in the criminal justice process. It would be helpful if you would complete this voluntary questionnaire and/or write a letter stating the personal, physical, emotional, and/or financial impact this crime has had on you and/or your family. This can also be a step in your healing process. Many victims and their families have found this to be an empowering experience.

Keep in mind, you may also attend the scheduled Court hearing to provide a victim impact statement in person in addition to your written statement.

You know better than anyone how the crime affected you and the people close to you. While it may be difficult to put into words the impact the crime has had on you, it may be helpful to organize your statement by the emotional, physical and financial effects as it applies to your situation. The following are some ideas to get you started:

*If you would like to describe the **emotional** impact of this crime to the Judge, you may want to consider:*

- ❖ How the crime affected your lifestyle or those close to you?
- ❖ What feelings you have been experienced?
- ❖ Have your feelings about yourself or your life changed since the crime?
- ❖ Has your ability to relate to others changed?
- ❖ Do you avoid going to certain places or have you stopped doing things you enjoyed?
- ❖ Have you consulted with a professional counselor/therapist because of the crime?
- ❖ Do you want to seek professional help but lack the financial resources to do so?

*If you suffered **financial** loss as a result of the crime, you may wish to:*

- ❖ Discuss how this crime has affected your ability to earn a living, ability to pay your living expenses, or your standard of living.
- ❖ Describe examples of expenses you have paid or owe including medical bills or supplies; eyeglasses or hearing aid replacement or repair; funeral expenses; lost, stolen or damaged property; the repair or replacement of door locks and security devices; counseling/therapy expenses; and lost wages from work.

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

United States v. _____ CR#: _____

Name of victim: _____

Name of respondent if other than victim: _____

Relationship to victim: _____

Everyone experiences and expresses feelings and emotions differently when they have gone through a traumatic event. People may be overcome with disbelief, depression, anxiety, fear, anger, guilt, feeling unsafe, which are all normal feelings. Please describe these feelings you or your family have experienced due to this crime? (You may use additional pages if necessary)

How much did you invest with Goliath Ventures?

Did you receive any withdrawals, distributions, or return of funds at any point?

Yes _____

No _____

If yes, please indicate amount(s).

If the court orders restitution to you, please indicate the correct name or entity to which all payments should be made payable.

Name:

Address:

*Note: Any claims for restitution will only be considered by the Court when you submit a request for out-of-pocket expenses you incurred as a direct result of this crime. **Receipts or documentation may be required.***

Keeping in mind there are sentencing guidelines and laws, what sentence do you feel the defendant should receive?

Any other information you would like the Judge to know?

Print Name

Signature

Date

Please return within 15 days of receipt
If you need more time, please contact your Victim Witness Specialist.

United States Attorney's Office
Victim Witness Program
400 W. Washington Street, Suite 3100
Orlando, FL 32801
or by email at
usaflm.orlvw@usdoj.gov

The purpose and use of this victim impact statement is to obtain information which will enable the United States Attorney's Office to assess victims' needs, provide input to the Assistant United States Attorney, obtain Court-ordered restitution, and assist the United States Probation Office in preparing the Presentence Report. There is no statutory authority for the collection of this information. **This information is supplied on a voluntary basis by victims of crime.** *Under criminal law and procedures, all information contained in your victim impact statement must be disclosed to the defense attorney and defendant.* If you have any questions or need assistance in completing your victim impact statement, please contact your Victim Witness Specialist.