



Victim Impact Statement

Concepts Involved - Carol Totten, BSW

This statement **stays permanently in the perpetrators file** - it will be reviewed by the parole board whenever parole is considered. It will also be available if ever another crime is committed.

How this has affected your everyday life:

⇒ One's personal schedule

- How have you changed it
 - How does that affect other people in your life
- Did you want or feel like you needed to move away?

⇒ School work/work

- Ability to concentrate
- Desire to continue to do the things that were previously pleasant or challenging
- Emotional impact
- Effects of the increased work load

⇒ Interactions at school- with both peers and teachers

- Dealing with other people's perceptions that rape or the crime is the victim's fault
 - If she wasn't dressed in such a way, or wasn't in such a place or didn't do certain things this would not have happen to her or him

⇒ Social activities

- Are they curtailed- i.e. keeping the shutters closed all the time
- Desire to be involved
- The fear that is lived with daily
- Feeling that people treat you differently now

⇒ How one does not feel like they are the same person

- Grief and loss involved
- Altered self image
- Nightmares
- Flashbacks and memories

⇒ How it can affect the possibility of future relationships

- The feeling that they are now damaged
- Possibility of disease or infection
- Physical injury?

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⇒ How has it affected other people in your family

- Parental roles—the sense that a parent must have done something wrong, omitted crucial information, not prepared their child well enough for the child not to have had the skills to avoid a situation like this.
- Protective role of parents
- Roles of other siblings- feelings of inadequacy in their ability to comfort and protect their sibling and truly understand what one is experiencing
- Spousal roles- the role of the protector and confidant, how has that been altered, the extended sense of vulnerability
- Adult children- again the extended sense of vulnerability, the difficulty understanding all of what one has experienced
- Heighten sense of aloneness do you feel that you can share the experience with trusted confidants?

⇒ Has this crime affected the children?

- Emotional responses to situations
- Ability to form relationships
- Behavior at school and in the home- is it different?
 - Interactions with parents, authority figures, peers, siblings

⇒ Physical injuries as a result of the crime

- Immediate needs and care
- Long term needs
- Extended outlook for care
- Self-perception of injuries- disfigurement?

⇒ Changes that have occurred in the household

- In yours
- In the home that is caring for the children
- Impact on other family members
- Possibility of needing to split up the children due to emotional responses

⇒ Financial Impact

- Immediate changes in your finances
- Long term changes
- Job changes, employer supportive to the scheduling changes that may be necessary to meet the legal, medical and behavioral health appointments