

VICTIM IMPACT LETTER OUTLINE

The Honorable _____

Name of Court

City, State, ZIP Code

RE: People vs. (Case Number)

Your Honor:

1st PARAGRAPH: State your name and your relationship to the case (as the crime victim or on behalf of a loved one or a colleague).

2nd PARAGRAPH: Provide the date and a short summary of the crime. Include the victim and the defendant's name.

3rd PARAGRAPH: Describe the impact this crime has had on you, your family, friends and community, if this crime has caused great economic hardship such as large or ongoing medical bills, funeral expenses, loss of income, etc.

4th PARAGRAPH: Explain how you feel about a future without your loved one, or about the injuries (both physically and emotionally) that you or a loved one must live with.

5th PARAGRAPH: Tell the Judge what *you* feel is just in the way of a penalty for this crime. If you want restitution, this is the time to request that also.

Sincerely,

Name

cc:

*Discuss this outline with your Advocate for suggestions and range of penalties for this type of crime. It is important to be realistic about penalty ranges and the choices a Judge can legally make. Do not include technical court evidence; the Judge knows this information already. Remember, your opinion is the only one the Judge has not heard. Family and friends may also write to the Judge during the sentencing phase. All letters must be routed through the probation department.