Submitting a Parole or Pardon board statement by the victim is an opportunity for you to explain, in your own words, how the crime committed by this person has affected you and people close to you. This statement may include an explanation of the crime, the nature and extent of any physical, psychological, emotional harm or trauma suffered by the victim; an explanation of the extent of any economic loss or property damage; and the victim’s recommendation for an appropriate parole release if granted.

A written statement may be submitted by the victim (as defined below), and/or their family members.

An oral, in person or virtual statement may also be given. If you have any questions, or if you wish to make an oral statement, please contact the Victim Services Program at least one month prior to the scheduled board meeting.

The information that you give in your statement is helpful to the board members in understanding the full effects of the crime. Please include the following informational sections in your statement:

1. **Your name, contact information, and name of the offender.**
2. **Physical** - Describe how the crime has physically changed your life:
   - Do you have any physical discomfort or illness because of this crime?
   - What treatment have you received, or will you be required to receive in the future?
   - Do you have any permanent or long-term disability or injury as a result of the crime?
3. **Emotional** - It may be difficult to explain the emotional impact of the crime, please consider the following:
   - Do/did you feel fearful, vulnerable, helpless, violated, angry?
   - Do/did you feel uncomfortable or frightened in your own home?
   - Have you changed your lifestyle? Do you restrict your activities? Do you avoid going out at a certain time?
   - Has the crime affected your relationship with your family, friends, or colleagues?
4. **Financial** - Describe any expenses you have incurred as a result of the crime:
   - Personal belongings or property lost, destroyed, or damaged.
   - Medical expenses incurred.
   - Future medical or counseling expenses your doctor anticipates.
   - Funeral expenses.
   - Lost wages or income.

**Definition:**

**Victim:** A person identified in a criminal information or complaint who suffers direct or threatened physical, psychological, or financial harm as a result of the commission or attempted commission of a crime or delinquent act or against whom the crime or delinquent act is committed, for which the adult under supervision is currently in the legal and physical custody or under the supervision and management of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. If a victim is deceased, incompetent, incapacitated, or a minor, the victim's spouse, parent, grandparent, child, sibling, grandchild, or guardian, and any person with a relationship to the victim that is substantially similar to a listed relationship. The term “victim” does not include the accused or a person whom the court finds would not act in the best interests of a deceased, incompetent, minor, or incapacitated victim.

ND DOCR Victim Services Program     Phone: 701-328-6183        Email: victimservices@nd.gov