GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETING
YOUR VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

The following guidelines are suggestions you may want to use when completing a Victim Impact Statement.

To tell the court about the emotional impact of this crime, you may want to consider:
- How has the crime affected your lifestyle or those close to you?
- Have your feelings about yourself or your life changed since the crime?
- Has your ability to relate to others changed?

To tell the court about the physical impact of this crime, you may wish to:
- Describe the physical injuries you or members of your family suffered.
- Describe how long these injuries lasted or how long they are expected to last.
- Describe any medical treatment you have received or expect to receive in the future.

To tell the court about the financial impact of this crime, you may want to consider:
- Has your ability to earn a living been effected?
- Did you seek medical treatment or therapeutic services?

Lastly, discuss the outcome of the case. In considering the type of punishment that would be most beneficial for the defendant and the public, you may want to consider:
- Do you feel the defendant needs counseling and/or education? For example, drug or alcohol treatment, domestic violence counseling, etc.?
- Do you feel community service would be appropriate? What kind?

If the defendant is released via the Department of Parole and Probation, would you like there to be no contact? Please request the Court to have "no contact" as part of the probation order by stating such in your impact statement.

Things to Remember
1. Include the defendant's name and the case number on your letter to the Court.
2. Sign your letter.
3. Make copies for yourself before mailing your statement to:
   Victim/Witness Assistance Program
   Office of the State's Attorney for Cecil County
   129 East Main Street, Suite 300
   Elkton, Maryland 21921

If you need assistance in completing your Victim Impact Statement or have questions, contact:
Valda Rotolo, Victim/Witness Coordinator at 410-996-5342.