

## VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT FORM FOR VULNERABLE WITNESSES

### Instructions for filling out your Victim Impact Statement

#### The purpose of a Victim Impact Statement

A Victim Impact Statement helps victims of crime, their support people and witnesses in the Solomon Islands to share the impact of the offender's actions on them or the victim. The court will take this into account when determining what sentence to give the offender.

**This form has been prepared to help vulnerable witnesses such as minors/children, people with disabilities and other groups of vulnerable witnesses to prepare a Victim Impact Statement. The form helps them compare (through writing or drawings) their life before and after the crime.**

Vulnerable witnesses do not have to use this form. They can decide whether this form will help them share the impacts of the crime.

While the statement is usually in writing, witnesses may be able to provide a verbal statement in court.

#### Who can help a vulnerable witness to prepare a Victim Impact Statement?

Family members should not help vulnerable witnesses to complete Victim Impact Statements. There are other support people who can help though. If you need help, ask the witness support officer and they can help you or find someone else who can.

If you are supporting a vulnerable witness, you can guide them through the form by reading out the headings and questions.

#### How to use this form

This form has blank spaces so vulnerable witnesses can write or draw pictures. If you are supporting a vulnerable witness, you can fill it in for them by reading the questions and asking them how they would like to respond. You can add more pages if you run out of space.

#### What should I include in this form and what documents can I attach?

Read the questions and answer any that apply. You don't have to answer all of them.

Make sure you include the vulnerable witness's full name and the date the form was completed.

You can attach supporting documents such as letters, photographs, drawings, medical reports, receipts or bills for medical treatment, particularly if it is ongoing.

#### When is the Victim Impact Statement prepared?

This statement can be prepared any time before the sentencing hearing.

#### Who presents the Victim Impact Statement in court?

The prosecutor usually presents the statement in court. Ask the vulnerable witness if they would like to read out or explain their statement. Alternatively, someone else could read it out or explain it for them.

# VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT FOR VULNERABLE WITNESSES

What is your name? .....

If the person completing this form is not a victim, what is their relationship to the victim?

What is the name of the offender and what were they charged with?

<p><b>BEFORE THE CRIME</b> <i>Your feelings</i> How did you feel before the crime?</p>	<p><b>AFTER THE CRIME</b> <b>How do you feel now?</b> For example, do you feel hurt, grief, anger, shame, or fear? Do you have nightmares or trouble sleeping?</p>
<p><i>Physical harm</i> Did you have any injuries before the offender hurt you?</p>	<p><b>What injuries do you have now?</b> Do you need to keep taking medicine or treatment for these injuries? Can you still do all of the things you used to do?</p>

*Interactions with friends and family*

What sorts of things would you do with friends and family before the offender hurt you?

Do you still want to do these things? If you don't do these things anymore, how do you spend your time now?

*The future*

Before the crime, how did you feel about your future?

How do you feel about the future now?

Date of completion: