

Victim Impact

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Defining Who Is a Victim

- ▶ Victim: “any person or persons, group, business, or organization that has been harmed and/or injured as a result of criminal activity.” A “**ripple effect**” describes how the impact of crime can spread beyond the immediate victim throughout his or her family, friends, and community. *
- ▶ Victim Impact Statement: A statement read into the record during sentencing to inform the judge or jury of the financial, physical, and psychological impact of the crime on the victim and the victim’s family.

➤ Core Victim's Rights*

There are several general core rights to which victims are entitled. These include:

- Information/Referral: The right to information about the offender, the case proceedings, and the offender's disposition. The right to be referred to people and agencies that can assist them.
- Notification: The right to receive notice of offender status such as arrest, release on bail, and/or release to parole.
- Safety: The right to protection beginning at the crime scene and continuing through release on bail, and/or release to parole.

Core Victim's Rights (continued)

- ▶ Restitution/compensation: The right to seek restitution directly from the offender for losses resulting from the crime. In addition, victims have the right to apply to the State's Victim Compensation Fund for financial assistance.
- ▶ Participation: The right to attend proceedings and /or submit a victim impact statement.
- ▶ Victim Impact Statement: A statement read into the record during sentencing to inform the judge or jury of the financial, physical, and psychological impact of the crime on the victim and the victim's family.

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- ▶ 1) Why do you think it is important that the Victim's Impact Statement be read at the sentencing of the offender?

Areas of Impact: How are people harmed?

- ▶ Being victimized is a shocking experience for people. Regardless of the type of crime, victims may experience intense fear, helplessness, or horror. Some may even develop posttraumatic stress disorder. After the crime, victims may become afraid of people who share the offender's characteristics (e.g., age, race, voice tone, clothing, body language, or distinctive features). They may become upset and/or have flashbacks in reaction to certain noises, smells, times of day that remind them of the victimization. They may worry about being believed or about being blamed or second-guessed for their behavior before, during, and after the crime. They may spend much of their time filling out forms for the police, compiling paperwork for insurance, paying bills and caring for their distraught families. Their behavior may change toward the people around them. Symptoms may last for a short time or linger for years. Although victims react in individual ways, there are four basic areas of impact for all victims: physical, financial, emotional, and religious/spiritual.*

Classifications of Juvenile Crime

Property Crimes

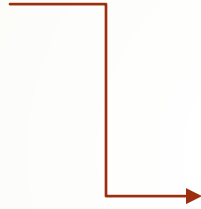
- Criminal Damage
- Vandalism
- Burglary
- Theft
- Motor Vehicle Theft
- Criminal Deprivation of Property
- Arson
- Criminal Trespass

Person Crimes

- Battery
- Criminal Threat
- Assault
- Robbery
- Sex crimes
- Other: Harassment By Telephone or Fax, Disorderly Conduct
- Homicide

Burglary of a Dwelling

- ▶ Watch the video at the right on this page. *



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- 1) How did this burglary affect Leanna and her family?
- 2) What item was taken that can never be replaced?

Property crime has a serious financial and emotional impact on victims. Victims suffer from a loss of security in their own homes, businesses, or workplaces. Their privacy is violated. They may never regain the sense of security they once had. *



Someone breaks into your place and steals from you. Pick the one item that would bother you the most if someone were to steal it.

Cell Phone
Air Jordans
Computer

TV or Gaming System
Wallet/Cash/ID

Favorite Jewelry/Watch
Other (please name in answer, below)

1) List item and describe how this loss would make you feel.

Robbery

- Robbery is taking or attempting to take anything of value (actual or perceived) from another person by force or threat of force. Because robbery is face-to-face, it is considered a violent crime. Victims of robbery are directly threatened by their offenders.
- Robbery may be committed with or without a weapon and with or without physical injury. Victims report that after the robbery they experience fear, anger, shock, inability to sleep, nightmares, inability to return to work, lack of concentration, and guilt. *



Watch the video and answer the following:

- 1) What were Jim's parents' emotions?
- 2) The individuals were caught. Does Jim indicate that he is "over it," no longer impacted by the crime?
- 3) How does Jim think these offenders should be held accountable for the harm they caused?
- 4) How do you think you would feel if Jim were your father, brother, uncle or cousin? *



Vandalism: To willfully or maliciously destroy, injure, disfigure, or deface any public or private property, real or personal, without the consent of the owner or person having custody or control by cutting tearing, breaking, marking, painting, drawing, or any other such means as may be specified by local law.

Impact on victims include costs for repairs of property, burglar alarm purchase, security services costs, wage loss, sadness, guilt, shame, embarrassment, depression, and vulnerability.*

Motor Vehicle Theft

- Many times stolen vehicles driven by juveniles are involved in traffic accidents.
- Most often the out of pocket expense to the victim for insured vehicles is the deductible per the insurance policy. Deductibles range from \$100, \$250 to \$500 or more.
- Oftentimes individuals do not insure older vehicles with collision and “comprehensive” coverage. If that car is stolen and totaled the victim is left with nothing.
- Frequently small business owners not only lose their business vehicle, but thousands of dollars of tools or equipment that they use to earn a living and support their families.

Auto Burglary

Nationally, over 25% of larceny/thefts were property taken from motor vehicles.



- ▶ 1) Think of all the things you keep in your car or a parent's vehicle. How would you feel if you were to discover that they were stolen?
- ▶ 2) Could you identify your property to police, for example, give serial number from your tablet or favorite camera? (Victims are asked for such information by law enforcement) Where do you or your parents have that information?

Arson/Homicide

View video below:



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- 1) The offender's intent was to harm his former girlfriend, so he chose to set the building in which she lived on fire. What were the unintended results?
- 2) What was the "ripple effect" (see Slide 2 for review) on Peggy's family?

Changing the Focus...from Victim to Juvenile Offender...





- 1) What functions are impacted by the prefrontal cortex (hint: 4 things are mentioned)?
- 2) When is the prefrontal cortex fully developed?
- 3) Which area of the brain do teens use to interpret expressions/respond/react?
- 4) Name the binged television show to which the speaker refers.
Which video games are mentioned?
Which singer/actor is named?
- 5) Name two of the four activities that were suggested as ways to build positive connections (lovely topiary!) during synaptic pruning.



- 1) Will this information regarding teenage brain development impact how you will view your own, as well as your peers', behavior and decision making? Explain.
- 2) Do you think accountability/consequences for your behaviors now will influence future decisions? Explain.



- 1) Is there such a thing as a “victimless” crime? Refer back to the definition at the beginning of this presentation.
- 2) If there is a victim in your offense, how would you feel if you were in their place? Who else has been affected by this offense?
- 3) If there is no formal victim in your offense, identify someone who has been negatively **affected by** this offense/behavior; describe HOW they have been affected and how they might feel.

In Their Own Words....

Local victims of juvenile crime speak through their Victim Impact Statements:

Criminal Threat.... from parent of victim...

- ▶ I'm not looking to disrupt another child's life, but I do want to make sure that mine is safe as well...We would just like this young man to know how serious his actions were and how much fear he inflicted into his classmate's parents....not knowing how serious the threats were.

Criminal Damage to Property

- Damage has been stressful because of the disrespect it shows for my property and because I have no way to repair or replace damaged property. My very limited income doesn't even cover my monthly expenses.

Criminal Damage/Misd. Theft

- ▶ This is a difficult statement to write for me. This is my son and I am saddened that we have arrived at this situation. I feel a horrible parent pressing charges against my son, but he continues to make bad decisions and does not seem willing to change that behavior. He also does not seem to care about or understand the consequences of his actions/behaviors. He continues to push the limits and his dishonesty exceeds any trust that was ever established. My wife and I are at a dead end in what we can do for him and to get him on the right path. I was hoping that it would not result in having the Judicial System help with this, but, this is where we are.

* Acknowledgement

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