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[www.co.mille-lacs.mn.us/cao](http://www.co.mille-lacs.mn.us/cao)

Phone: (320) 983-8305  
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**Victim Assistance**

**Coordinators:**

Renae Szymanski  
Darian Buel

**Victim Impact Statement Information:**

The Victim Impact Statement (VIS) is a letter written to the **judge** describing (in your own words) how your life has been impacted and changed as a result of this crime. **However, please keep in mind that it is NOT meant to be an open letter to the defendant, a “corrected” version of events, or a new statement for law enforcement.** Additionally, the use of inflammatory or derogatory language is prohibited and will not be allowed by the Judge. **Any VIS received that includes the above will have to be redone or redacted (edited) before it is given to the court.**

The VIS is not delivered until a sentencing hearing and describes how this crime has affected **you** (such as any financial, physical, and emotional effects that you, or others within your family, have experienced). You can also share your opinion on what should be included in the defendant's sentence or disposition, such as jail/prison time, community service options, treatment programs, and probation conditions. **There is no right or wrong way to do a Victim Impact Statement; it is your emotions and opinions simply being expressed to the court.**

Please read the enclosed brochure for more information and use the attached sheet as a guide for your VIS. If you are going to complete a VIS, you must inform our office as soon as possible as a copy must be submitted to the sentencing Judge. You can submit a VIS by writing your VIS on the following page, writing a VIS on a separate sheet of paper, or submit an electronic copy via email.

You have the following options for how you would like your Victim Impact Statement delivered to the court: **(1)** Attend the sentencing hearing and personally read your VIS aloud to the court, **(2)** Request the prosecuting attorney read your VIS aloud at the sentencing hearing on your behalf, or **(3)** Request the judge read the VIS. It's important to note that with all three methods, you are always welcome to attend the sentencing hearing and the defense will also always receive a copy of the VIS.

**Be sure to indicate which of these three you would prefer when you submit a VIS.** If you decide to submit your VIS on a separate sheet of paper or by email, be sure to indicate how you would like the VIS delivered to the court.

If you have any questions or want more information, please don't hesitate to contact a Victim Assistance Coordinator. You can submit this form online using the "[Submit a Form](#)" function on the Mille Lacs County Website or by sending by mail to the address below.

Sincerely,  
**Mille Lacs County Victim Assistance Program**  
225 6<sup>th</sup> Ave SE  
Milaca, MN 56353  
320-983-8305

