

So You're Going to do a Video!

A Victim's Impact Statement

Giving you rules and suggestions of how to "get thru this" is not what this is all about... We just want to help you produce a video that will send the "most impact".

OH NO!... All those lights!

Yes, there are lights. They make sure the camera sees the image. Additionally, well done lighting will flatter you for the camera; it can be your friend.

OH NO!... That camera!

You should start thinking of the camera as your friend. It is the camera that is creating your very important message. Approach it as though you are telling your one-eyed friend those feelings that you want others to experience. Talk to it with all the earnest emotions that you would expend on a close friend. It will patiently listen and record your message in a way that will be a true depiction of your feelings for all who view it.

What to wear, What to wear...

Be comfortable. Remember, it's the message that counts – it's not a fashion show. What you are wearing should not be noticed. In fact if no one notices what you had on, you have been successful. Muted colors work well; no white, no stripes, no polka dots. Respectful, not formal. Comfortable.

A Few Tips

1. Decide your message and practice prior to going in front of the camera.
2. Open your message with an identifying sentence, for example: "My name is Jane Doe. On December 14th, 1990, my daughter was brutally raped and murdered. John Smith was tried and convicted of the murder. He/she is already eligible for parole, and I am here today to respectfully request the board consider our statement before a decision is made."
3. Speak about your loved one, then describe the impact of the crime on yourself, your family, and the community. If you are a sexual assault victim, talk about the effect the crime has had on your life.
4. However you choose to word your Victim Impact Statement, always establish:
 - a) **Your Name**
 - b) **Your Relationship to the Crime**
 - c) **Or Your Kinship to the Victim**
 - d) **The Crime**
 - e) **The Date of the Victimization**
 - f) **Name of the Perpetrator**

The Justice For All Alliance victim coordinator will assist you with questions or concerns you may have regarding your VIS.



Justice For All Alliance

VICTIM OUTREACH PROGRAM

*A Voice for
The Victim*

P.O. Box 55009
Houston, Texas 77255
Phone: 713-465-7180
Fax: 713-935-9301

Email: video@murdevictims.com

Services Provided

- Assist with Crime Victims' compensation claims
- Offer emotional support via volunteers who are also victims or survivors themselves
- Attend trials in support of victims or survivors
- Create and maintain web-based homicide victims' memorial pages at www.murdervictims.com
- Monitor offender parole review dates and release dates
- Host a Remembrance Tree memorial service during the holidays
- Professional video-taping and archival of Victim Impact Statements.

Victims of sexual assault and families of murder victims have the right to personally address the court or the parole board about how the crime impacted their lives. Some individuals, while desiring to make such a statement, find it too emotionally difficult to accomplish the task.

Videotaping

A professional videotape of a crime victim or survivor's impact statement will aid in this process.

The video project ensures the preservation of a crime victim or survivor's VIS for future use for pre-trial, post-trial or in the parole, clemency or commutation process of their offender.

The video is a permanent record of the impact of the crime on the victims or survivors. The videotape will speak for the victims even when they can no longer speak for themselves, due to disability, distance or death.

Videotaped Victim Impact Statements will be archived and JFAA will register with TDCJ to be notified when each perpetrator becomes eligible for parole.

With the permission of the victim or survivor, the videotape will be submitted to the parole board or the governor's office to be used in the parole or clemency review process.

The JFAA Video Project is made possible through a grant from the Criminal Justice Division Office of the Governor of the State of Texas.

EDUCATION

Justice For All Alliance is an educational organization, dedicated to providing information about the rights of crime victims and the criminal justice system.

OUTREACH

The JFAA outreach program is designed to provide support and referral services for victims or surviving family members of violent crime.

THE VIDEO PROJECT

Justice For All Alliance is professionally video-taping and archiving victim impact statements from families of homicide and sexual assault victims residing in the greater Houston, Harris County area. For those residing outside of Harris County, please contact JFAA for eligibility.



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