

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT – N.S.

How has this crime affected you and those close you to you?

{e.g. feelings of anger, rage, blaming self, or family helplessness, vulnerability, fear, paranoia, hopelessness, frustration, loss of trust and faith in the world.}

What he did to me years ago has affected me in many different ways and aspects of my life. After learning of the additional incidences involving the other victims, I have felt an excessive amount of sadness, fear, and vulnerability. I have a deep sense of guilt that had I been strong enough and been more willing to report what he did to me sooner than maybe he would have been stopped there and wouldn't have done so many awful things to the other victims. I honestly didn't know what to do after he assaulted me. I was in disbelief and just wanted to push it far away from my mind. I was so scared too. I found myself putting his life before mine in a way because I wanted to give him the benefit of the doubt. I wanted to think he really wasn't that kind of person, and all I did was sacrifice myself because it affected me negatively. I was never able to tell my father, and that hurts me to my core. I did tell my mother right after it happened, and she was crushed but was also someone who didn't know what to do with the information. She always seemed to struggle in finding the right ways to support me when it came to the sexual assault. I had pretty significant issues trusting people after he did what he did to me. It certainly has affected the way I look at law enforcement, like "how could someone in uniform do this to someone else?" I am a police officer now myself and can't imagine abusing my authority.

How has this crime affected your ability to perform your work, make a living, run a household, go to school, or enjoy any other activities you previously performed or enjoyed? {e.g. overreact to situations, overprotective of family members, socially withdrawn, fear of going out in a world that has been proven unsafe.}

I feel that the assault has affected everything in my life. The assault changed every relationship in my life by causing me to be untrusting of most people. Since the assault, I don't feel safe, and I feel as if people have alternative motives or are dishonest. I hate even to say this, but I doubt everyone in my life, including myself sometimes. To this day, I feel if I could allow this to happen to myself, what will the other people in my life, let to happen to me, or better yet how will they hurt me themselves. I know this is not a normal or healthy way to look at the world, especially being a police officer myself. I hate that I doubt others, and I have to work so hard daily to trust others again because that is not a healthy or productive way to look at the world. I have attended counseling for about two years until my insurance plan was changed, and I lost that support. Luckily my position in my job allowed me to help people in need and show them other people are willing and able to help them. Helping others is one of the few things I found to bring me joy after my assault. I think assisting others brings me so much joy because I still

remember how fearful, distant, and misunderstood I felt. If someone could have done that for me, it would have made a significant difference to me. Thankfully because I am in law enforcement, I met a local victim's advocate, and she has helped me a lot. If not for her helping me through the emotional healing process, I don't know if I would be able to come forward now to write this statement.

If you wish, you may use this space to tell the Judge whatever you would like him/her to know about how it is to be a victim of violent crime; or any other information you would like to share.

{e.g. the stigma of being a victim, media coverage, family reaction, the loss of control.}

This has been one of the hardest things for me, understanding what happened to me, accepting it, and accepting that he did go on to do it to other women. I live with so much guilt because I didn't report him after it happened. Now I am always stuck wondering if I had, would he have stopped, and could I have prevented others from being assaulted.

I worried that no one would believe me, or people would think I was somehow to blame and that I was screwing up a good man's life. He was engaged at the time, and I honestly worried that I would be perceived as the cause of this. All these years later, I am stronger, braver, and mostly proud of myself for being able to talk about what happened to me. Nothing will ever take away what happened to me, but I know that I am a greater, stronger, person, and none of it was not my fault.

Reactions, feelings toward the criminal justice system:

{e.g. How the process impacted on you, how you/your family were treated; e.g. victim/witness intervention; information on court proceedings and case status; feeling abandoned by the system, defense attorney's insinuations, how it felt enduring the trial, seeing the offender face to face (plea bargaining).}

This is different for me because I know I am not a listed victim in this case, so I didn't have to go through what the other women went through in terms of the trial process. I do know that even talking about what happened to me with the prosecutors on this case has been incredibly challenging and brings me a lot of pain. I am incredibly emotional about it. I do feel believed, and the prosecutors and the victim advocate have been incredible to me in including me with this part, writing a statement. I feel heard and am grateful for the opportunity to say how this has affected me. I know that this is helping me by talking about it and sharing how this type of trauma makes a person feel.

Recommendations for sentencing (mandatory/maximum):

{Do you want to be notified what the sentence is, how it computes to actual time served, when this individual comes up for parole? See attached pamphlet "Victims Right in the Parole Process".}

I definitely would like to know what happens to him at the sentencing hearing. I can't imagine what kind of sentence or punishment could ever fix what is wrong with him. I'd love to believe that he could be rehabilitated with counseling, but I don't see that as the fix for him. He is a predator in a uniform, and I don't know how he can even sleep at night. A person who can sexually assault one person, let alone many people, needs to be put away for a long time never to hurt anyone again. He has hurt many people along the way already, and I hope and pray that he will never hurt anyone again. This man was a police officer, someone people looked up to, his family looked up to, and all while he was sexually assaulting women. He didn't just sexually assault me, no he sexually assaulted the daughters, mothers, sisters, and friends of many people. He could have stopped at any time, but he didn't stop until he was caught. So I feel it is unlikely he will change after confessing to this. After he sexually assaulted me, I confronted him, and he still went on to hurt other people just like he did me. He's sick and can't be fixed. As much as I don't want to believe he could be, I think some people are unfixable. I know the court will do what is right for this situation and all of the victims. Thank you for taking the time to read my statement.