

# Victims' Code of Practice

## Right 7: Victim personal statement (VPS)

### A VPS:

- ◆ allows a victim to explain how a crime has affected them
- ◆ may be used by the judge/magistrate/parole board
- ◆ helps agencies support victims
- ◆ must be offered to bereaved close family members
- ◆ can be made anytime before sentencing

**Note:** Police should provide victims with information about the VPS.

### Police should make sure the victim is aware that they can:

- ◆ opt to read the VPS out themselves at court
- ◆ ask that the VPS is read by someone else
- ◆ request that it is not read out at all



### Victims should be informed that:

- ◆ they may be asked questions about their VPS at court
- ◆ their VPS may be reported on by the media
- ◆ the defendant may see the statement

Once a VPS is made, it cannot be withdrawn, but additional statements can be submitted.

### Impact statement for businesses (ISB)

The ISB works in the same way as a VPS and allows for a business or enterprise to explain how it has been affected by a crime.

Find out more at [college.police.uk/guidance/victims-code](https://college.police.uk/guidance/victims-code)