

How to Acknowledge Victims of Crime in Court Setting

Acknowledging victims is important and impactful. Below are some helpful examples of how to acknowledge victim presence, experience and/or perspectives.

"The youth is alleged to have ****assaulted**** the victim causing significant physical injuries that required medical attention, and the victim has missed a lot of school days since the incident."
(****vs.** "been in a fight with"******)

"The named victims in this matter are the youth's parents. We believe it's important for the youth to hear that their parents are not "pressing charges" that decision is up to the State."

"Although I am recommending the youth be released on electronic monitoring today, the victim's safety concerns are understandable, and I've reiterated to the youth that any violation of the no contact order would likely result in them going to detention or coming back to court."

"As the youth is charged with allegedly committing the crime of domestic violence, we're asking for the Court to order that they have no contact at this time. While the victim does not agree with this recommendation, we have emphasized with them that only the Court can lift or modify this condition if ordered."

"As your honor is aware, the youth is on release conditions/probation for serious charges that caused significant injury/harm to the victim and their family. The Youth is currently complying with release conditions/probation which is an important way to show they are taking their case seriously."

"The victims have been very vocal about their hope that the youth will get whatever support, treatment and services are available."

"I continue to have conversations with the youth about the harm the victim has/might have experienced as a result of this offense."

"I've asked the youth to consider the impact(s) of their actions on the victim and the community."

"Today I'm recommending formal probation so that the youth can engage in services AND give them the opportunity to demonstrate accountability for the harm caused to the victim and community."

"I'd like to acknowledge the victim being present today/at many/at all the court hearings which can be/is difficult/stressful/etc."

"I've talked with the youth about how the victims might feel when they come back to court and hear that they are not following the rules/complying with the court orders, etc."