



# The Victim Personal Statement Resource Pack



Author: Susan Stewart

# Information about the Author

Susan Stewart is a Speech and Language Therapist and Registered Intermediary. She has worked with people with communication difficulties for over 20 years.

Susan spent 3 years working with County Durham Youth Offending Service and was co-author on the popular ClearCut Communication resources.

She is passionate about ensuring that people with communication needs get fair access to justice and that their voice is heard.

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# Making a Victim Personal Statement

# Introduction

'<u>The Victims' Code of Practice</u>' states all victims are entitled to make a Victim Personal Statement (VPS) to help inform court sentencing and Parole Board Hearing decisions.

However in the year ending March 2018 only 16% of victims were offered the chance to make a Victim Personal Statement (Source: 'The Victims' Commissioner Explains Why a Victim Personal Statement Matters'. Ministry of Justice UK accessed 24th January 2020).

These resources were created to make the process of gaining a VPS easier for both the complainant/victim and professionals gathering the victim's views. The resources reflect feedback from professionals and complainants/victims/witnesses.

They were initially designed for vulnerable complainants/victims who have a communication need. However, the impact of talking about a traumatic event can cause highly competent communicators to experience a communication difficulty. This is due to changes in how our brain functions when communicating about traumatic events; which affects how we communicate. The resources were therefore extended to make them useful for most people.

It is the professional seeking the VPS information who will need to decide when to use a particular resource and with which particular complainant/victim. These resources are a toolkit of different visual supports. Only a selection of the resources would ever be suitable for each person providing a VPS. The professional should select which visual tools to print or show to each individual.



# The pack should never be used in its entirety with one person.

## Using this interactive version of the Victim Personal Statement.

All interactive elements have a light blue box or area to either click or input with content. Look out for this mark to indicate it's interactive:



Information can be entered and saved as a complete resource pack. The relevant completed pages could then scanned and sent to court as required. Alternatively the full resource pack could be submitted as planning documentation, with the completed pages highlighted.

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Resources in <u>section 1</u> are aimed at adults with reasonable verbal and written communication skills. These adults may be able to provide a written VPS following their written statement. There may also be some young people with excellent communication skills who could benefit from using these visual tools too.

Section 2 resources are created to assist those with a possible communication need. These people may have provided a video recorded police interview as a vulnerable witness. They will need more detailed and supported work to prepare and then give their VPS (e.g. some children, young people, vulnerable adults and those with a label name that indicates a communication difficulty - Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Developmental Language Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Learning Disability). Some of the section 2 resources also allow parent/carers to provide information to complement their child, young person or vulnerable adult's VPS.

It is the responsibility of the person asking for the information to make sure they have up to date knowledge about how to gain emotional help for the person sharing their VPS.

The nature of what is explored and the way the visual resources support communication, may reveal new personal and sensitive information that must then be supported appropriately. Some of these visual resources may also have value for therapeutic services to use.

It is the complainant/victim's choice to do a VPS. When allegations relate to domestic and or sexual abuse consideration should be given to whether the VPS may enable the defendant to gain a further sense of control over that person. In addition, sometimes information from the VPS may be alluded to by the press (if attending the trial). These possibilities may need to be directly discussed to enable the complainant/victim to make an informed choice about making a VPS.

In addition professionals should also ensure the complainant/victim understands that the court only sees the VPS if someone is found guilty.

Professionals should not assume that all changes will be negative; in some cases, there may be positive changes which need recording. Sometimes change may also have occurred that is unrelated to the alleged event.

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# Section 1:

# Resources for Adults with Reasonable Verbal and Written Communication Skills

#### **Useful Information for Court Victim Personal Statements**

This general information sheet about the VPS could be provided before starting to complete the VPS to enable someone to decide whether or not they want to submit a VPS.

It is suitable for those with good reading skills and may also be used with some able secondary aged students.

# **Tips**

This provides a useful bullet point style summary of what is allowed and not allowed in the VPS.

# Planning your Victim Personal Statement: Things to Think About for Adults

It may be useful for people who need time to plan what information they want to share. It provides things to think about within the possible topics which may have changed because of what happened. Many people may not spontaneously think of the full range of the impact on their life from the offence. In addition, sometimes professionals may fail to ask about aspects of topics as perspectives may be influenced by the nature of the offence.

The planning sheets could help those with good functional reading skills. They could be left with the person who may then independently plan their written statement before providing it to the professional. Alternatively, the professional may work through the sheet to discuss the possible ideas with the person.

# **My Victim Personal Statement Plan**

These sheets could be used when:

- Minimal time is available (e.g. at the initial account).
- Detailed planning has been completed and a snapshot summary is needed.
- It's a suspected low impact offence.
- The person does not wish to give detailed information.

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# Useful Information about **Court Victim Personal Statements**

A Victim Personal Statement lets you share information with the court. This information is about what has changed in your life because of what happened.

The court uses your Victim Personal Statement to understand how the crime changed your life. This is PART of what may help the judge or magistrates work out what will happen to the person who hurt or upset you (the defendant). There are rules about what the judge or magistrates can say will happen to the defendant.

Parents/carers of a child victim may also make a Victim Personal Statement about how their child's life has changed because of what happened.

The 'Victim's Code' (www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-code-of-practice-for-victimsof-crime) says all victims should be asked if they want to make a Victim Personal Statement. It is **your choice** to make a Victim Personal Statement or not.

You may write, draw or video record your information. Usually your Victim Personal Statement is given in the same way that you gave your Witness Statement.

It must be done in time for the court to see it and then say what will happen to the person who hurt you.

Your Victim Personal Statement will always be seen by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). The CPS are lawyers. They show the court that someone did hurt or upset you.

When the case goes to court your Victim Personal Statement is then seen by the judge/ magistrates and defence lawyers.

When the case goes to court, the defendant (the person who hurt you) will also see your Victim Personal Statement. Your personal contact information is not shared with the defendant.

# Understanding your Victim Personal Statement may help the person who hurt or upset you learn from what they did

Once you make a Victim Personal Statement you **cannot change it or stop the court seeing it**. You can make more than 1 Victim Personal Statement. This may share more information or make things clearer.

Your finished Victim Personal Statement is **part of all the court legal papers or video recordings** about the case. You have to sign it to say the information is true.

You can let the court know if you want to share or read out the information yourself or let someone else share it in court. The **court says who will share or read out your information** with the court.

The **court says** if all, bits or a general summary of your Victim Personal Statement is read out/shared in court. When your information is shared in court the **journalists** and anyone sat in the public gallery will also hear it.

The **defence barristers may ask you questions** about what is in your Victim Personal Statement as part of the court trial.

Sometimes the person who hurt or upset you may go to prison. When they go to prison you can also do a Victim Personal Statement in time for an appeal or tariff hearing, or a Parole Board.

# **Tips**

Remember sharing information is <b>your choice</b> . You do not have to share anything.
Only share information that is <b>true</b> .
Only share changes to your life that are because of why you got hurt or upset.
Share <b>your</b> information only.
Only share what you feel okay for the people in the courtroom to know. Remember there may be journalists in the court room or people in the public gallery. Journalists can't share any information about your name or where you live.
Only share information about the offence(s) the court will be thinking about.
Use <b>polite</b> words.
Make sure you feel able to answer questions about what you share.
The court can remove any parts of your Victim Personal Statement they feel should not be in. Avoid <b>putting in information about:</b>

punished (this is for the court to think about and say).

• Threats to the person who hurt you or threats to their family.

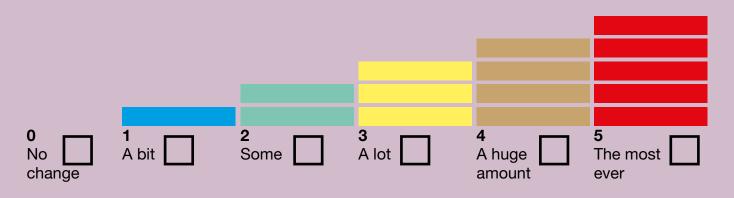
• What you want to happen to the person who hurt you or how you want them

• Things that are not true.

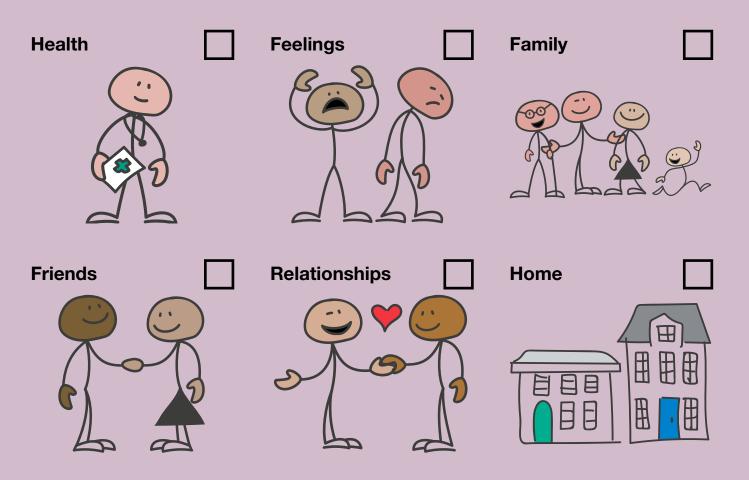
# My Victim Personal Statement Plan

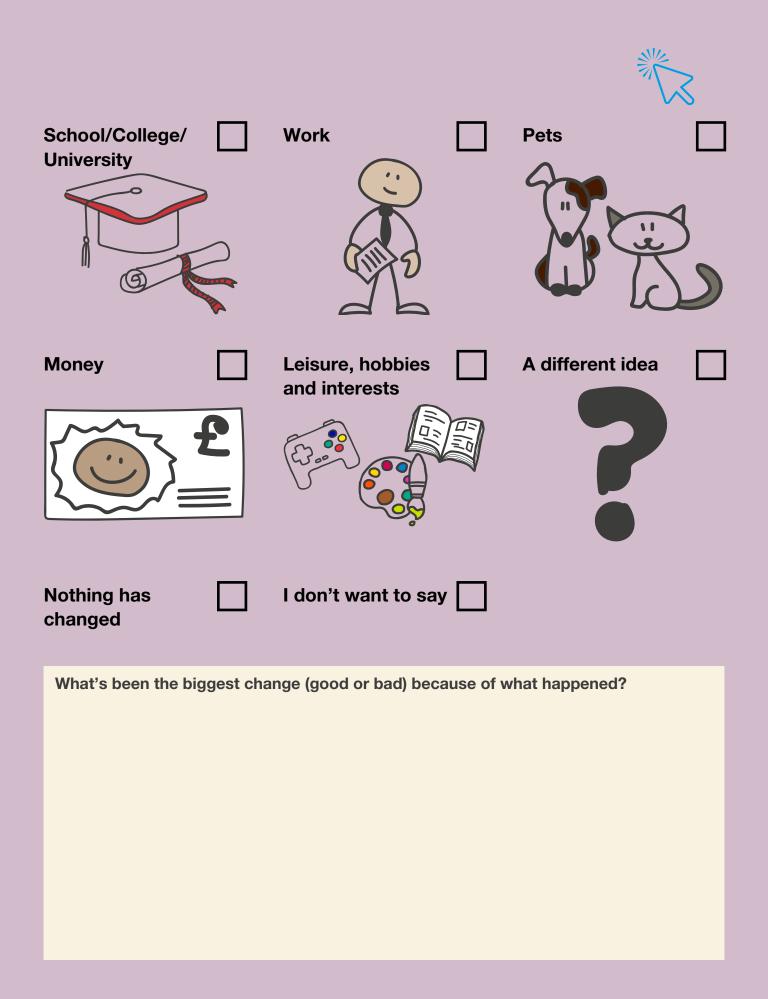


How much has your life changed because of what happened?



Tick anything that's changed because of what happened







What has this meant for you?	
Name of person:	Date:



# **My Victim Personal Statement**

It is the judge or magistrates who say how and if your Victim Personal Statement is shared with the court.

They may say that all, some or none of your Victim Personal Statement is shared.

They may say your Victim Personal Statement will not be read out or shown in the courtroom.

The judge or magistrate say how your Victim Personal Statement will be shared.

Tick how you'd like your Victim Personal Statement to be shared with the court

fou want.	
To read your written VPS out yourself.	
Someone else to read your written VPS out for you.	
Someone else to share your video recorded VPS with the court when you are not in the courtroom.	
Your video recording played when you are in the courtroom.	



# Your message to the judge or magistrate

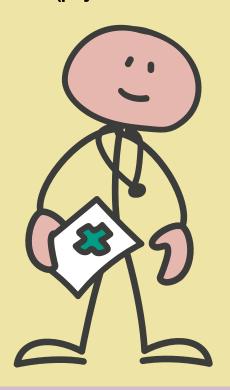
### Remember:

- This is about how your life has changed because of what happened.
- It cannot be about what you want to happen to the person who hurt you.
- The police officer can use what you write below to fill in the victim personal statement box of their MG11 form.

Name:	Date:

# Planning Your Victim Personal Statement: Things to Think About for Adults

# Health (physical and mental)



Physical Injuries: what injuries, how long and what do they change for you

Physical Illnesses: what illnesses, how long and what do they change for you

Mental health changes, depression or anxiety

Sleeping, toileting or eating pattern changes

Sex life changes

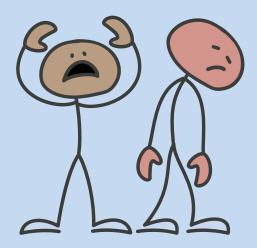
Medication you now need

Medical help you've had, still need or are waiting for

Alcohol use changes

Smoking changes

# **Feelings**



Feelings now about yourself and other people

How safe you may feel now

How scared you may feel now

How threatened you may feel now

How much you trust people now

Changes in how easy it is to cope with life

Changes to what you do to cope with life (e.g. self-harming, seeing friends and family more)

Changes in what you think of the world

# **Family**



How you get on with family now

Who you see now

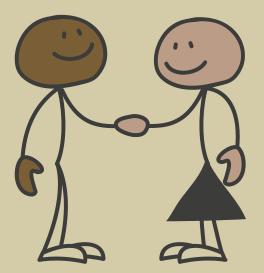
What you do with family now

Anything you have **stopped doing** with your family now

Changes in what your family can do now because of what happened

Changes in how your family are now (e.g. child sleep issues)

#### **Friends**



Who your friends are now

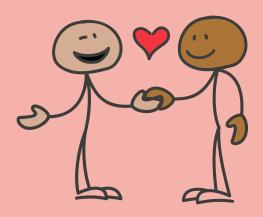
Where you see friends now

How often you see friends now

How you get on with friends now

Anything you've stopped doing with friends now

# Relationships



How you get on with your partner, husband, wife, **boyfriend or girlfriend** now (better or worse)

What you do with your partner now

Anything you have **stopped doing** with your partner now

Anything you've started doing together now

Changes in what your partner can do now because of what happened

Break ups/divorce/separation because of what happened

Changes to your feelings about having a relationship

#### Home



Anything you've had to get fixed or still need to get fixed

Anything you've had to replace or still need to replace

Any other changes you've had to make to your home because of what happened

Thoughts about where you live now

Anything you've **stopped doing at home** now

# **College/University**



How your studies/courses are going now

Changes to your grades

How often you can cope being in college/ **university** now

**Concentration** changes

**Motivation** now

School/college/university activities you've missed or could not do

Anything you've **stopped doing** at college/ university now

### Work



Changes in how you get on with your workmates

How often you are in work now (e.g. same, more, no longer work)

Concentration changes at work

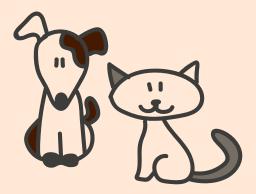
**Motivation** now

Work activities you've missed or could not do

Anything you've **stopped doing** at work now

Changes to your job because of what happened

#### **Pets**

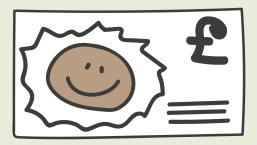


Any injury, illness, loss or death of pets because of what happened

Changes to your pet's behaviour because of what happened

Changes to what you can do to care for your pet because of what happened

# Money



Cost of anything lost, broken or damaged

Cost of time taken off work you couldn't be paid for

Payment for any professional help (e.g. medical, therapy, counselling, physio, vets, locksmith)

Extra costs that your insurance company would not pay for

Anything you don't have the money to do now because of costs from what happened

# Leisure, hobbies and interests



Anything you can't do anymore because of what happened

How much you enjoy activities now

How easy it is to do what you used to do

Changes to the amount or sort of activities you do (exercise, partying, going out)

Changes to your use of social media

Comments you've had on social media because of what happened



# Section 2:

# Resources for Children, Young People, Vulnerable Adults and those with a **Communication Need**

# 5 Things about the Court Victim Personal Statement (VPS)

This could be provided before starting to complete the VPS to enable them to decide whether to share information or not.

(Some young people may be able to cope with the adult 'Useful Information for Court Victim Personal Statements').

# **Tips**

This provides a useful bullet point style summary of what is allowed and not allowed in the VPS. It could be used with some primary aged students and older (who can read).

# My life then and now

These 2 picture frames are for younger children to draw in to show what their life was like then (when the offence occurred) and is like now. This allows them to be included and have a voice in the process too. Their parent/carer information would also be gathered to complement the child's drawings.

Feelings cards Set 1 may be stuck or written in the feelings box to show what they felt about their life back then and now (if they wish).

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# What's changed in your life because of what happened?

Use with the 'What's changed?' cards and sheet, and 'How much has it changed?' scale.

Remind them the changes may have made their life worse or better. There may also have been no change for that topic. Also highlight you only need to know about the changes because of what happened.

#### Complete either by:

- a) Cutting out the 'What's changed?' cards and then asking them to sort the cards onto an A3 version of the sheet no/maybe/yes. This may help those who like to actively do something. The victim's responses could be recorded by gluing on the 'what's changed' cards, you could photo the end sorted cards or using a full printed sheet of cards to record any topics that have changed.
- b) Using the 'What's changed?' cards only and presenting one at a time as a discussion topic to think about what changed because of what happened. Document their comments for any topic cards that they feel have changed.
- c) Showing the sheet of topic cards as a whole (if they can cope with a lot of information at a time). They then tick any topics that've changed and score through any topics that've not changed.
- d) Using the 'How much has it changed because of what happened' sheet to rate the change 0-5 (0=no change, 5=the most change ever) for any topics selected as changing. This allows for a number rating to be gained for the amount of perceived change.

It may assist people who need help to think in a concrete and organised way about the possible different aspects of the impact of what happened on them, those with ADHD, language needs, some people with mild-moderate learning disabilities, ASD or older primary aged students and above.

# What's changed because of what happened? sheets

This could be used as an alternative to sorting the 'What's changed?' cards. Their comments can be added in, as well as a rating of the amount of perceived change.

#### What's changed for \_\_\_\_\_ because of what happened?

Write the complainant/victim's name in the title.

This would **only** be used with:

- Parent/carers of children under 18 years where their child is unable to create their own VPS or additional information from parent/carers would be useful.
- The carers/responsible adult for some vulnerable adults (who are unable to provide their own information). The vulnerable adult should give consent for this. Remember vulnerable adults may be able to give their own VPS.

Parent/carers comments should be recorded in each topic box as well as a rating for the amount of perceived change.

# Professionals you've had help from because of what happened and People you've had help from because of what happened

Suitable for anyone needing help to consider the full range of people they may have needed/ gained help from. These may have cost the person in time or financially. Either:

- Print 2 copies of each sheet of cards, cut one set of the cards up, present one card at a time and note which professional(s)/person gave help on the 2nd printed sheet.
- Present the whole sheet for them to tick who helped them.

# Thoughts and feelings about what happened

This could be used with any witness wanting to think about the change between thoughts and feelings then and now.

# **Body cards**

The cards are a support to provide ideas to consider for when the witness lacks the language, ideas and or confidence to offer information for the 'Thoughts and feelings about what happened' sheets.

They have been created to present a range of positive and negative ideas for balance and to avoid leading.

# **Feelings cards**

Set 1 cards are for primary aged children, young people and adults.

Sets 2 and 3 can also be used with some young people and adults. These cards show more complex feelings.

The cards have been created to present a range of positive and negative ideas for balance and to avoid leading.

# Planning your Victim Personal Statement: Things to Think About for Children, Young People and some Adults

It may be useful for those who:

- Want to share their own VPS and have good functional reading skills.
- Completed the 'What's changed in your life because of what happened?' Cut the planning sheets up by topic and only present the topics they identified as having changed. One topic at a time which they rated had changed could then be explored. Their answers could be drawn, written or spoken depending on their choice and ability.

Some more able young people and vulnerable adults may wish to use the 'Planning your Victim Personal Statement: Things to think about for adults' sheet as an alternative.

# My message to the person who hurt or upset me

This could be left with the person so they can express what they may wish to say to the person who hurt them. This would not be used as part of the VPS but could allow them to release thoughts and feelings about the suspect/defendant. The professional must tell the person this sheet is not allowed to be part of their Victim Personal Statement. It may identify if the person wishes to consider restorative approaches.

# **My Victim Personal Statement Plan**

These sheets could be used as a summary once detailed preparation from previous resources has been completed.

# Worries for the future because of what happened

These picture cards can be used to explore possible ideas about what may worry the person making a VPS. Attempts should be made to suggest any solutions to ease these worries and signpost to relevant support agencies.

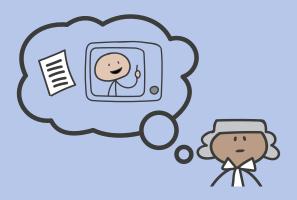
# What to do about my worries

Ideas to address identified worries should be discussed and listed. This may include contact details of services which may be able to offer support or facts about what may happen at court to reassure.

# **Diary Sheet**

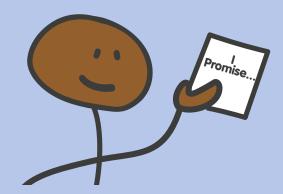
This could be printed and left for the person to fill in (with help from a parent/carer if appropriate) as new things affect what they think and feel about what happened. This makes sure important information is remembered between providing information about the VPS to the person, the VPS being taken and then waiting for decisions about what may happen to the suspect/defendant.

# 5 Things about the Court Victim Personal Statement



1. It's your way of letting the judge or magistrates know your thoughts.

Think about any changes to your life because of what happened.



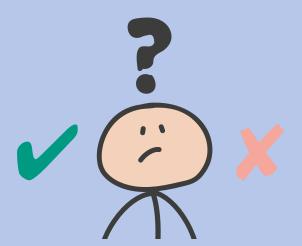
2. It has to be truthful information.



3. You may be asked questions about your Victim Personal Statement in court.



4. Your Victim Personal Statement is always kept safe by the police and court. When the person who hurt or upset you has to go to court, a court lawyer will show it to them.



5. It's your choice to give a Victim Personal Statement or not.

# **Tips**

Remember sharing information is <b>your choice</b> . You do not have to share anything.
Only share information that is <b>true</b> .
Only share changes to your life that are because of why you got hurt or upset.
Share <b>your</b> information only.
Only share what you feel okay for the people in the courtroom to know. Remember there may be journalists in the court room or people in the public gallery. Journalists can't share any information about your name or where you live.
Use <b>polite</b> words.
Make sure you feel able to answer questions about what you share.

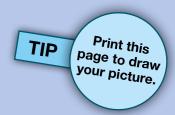
The court can take out any parts of your Victim Personal Statement they feel should not be in. Avoid putting in information about:

- Things that are not true.
- Threats to the person who hurt you or threats to their family.
- What you want to happen to the person who hurt you or how you want them punished (this is for the court to think about and say).



# **My Life**

Draw a picture of your life back then when they hurt or upset you.		
Words for how you felt back then (look at the feelings cards if you want):		
Name:	Date Drawn:	



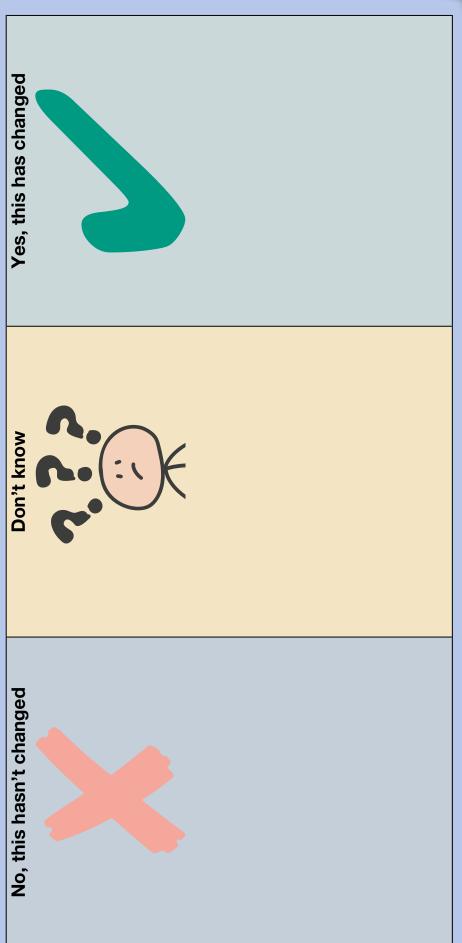
# **Something happened...My Life Now**

Words for how you feel now (look at the feelings cards if you want):		
Name:	Date Drawn:	

# Print this page to help fill in page 34.

Date Done:

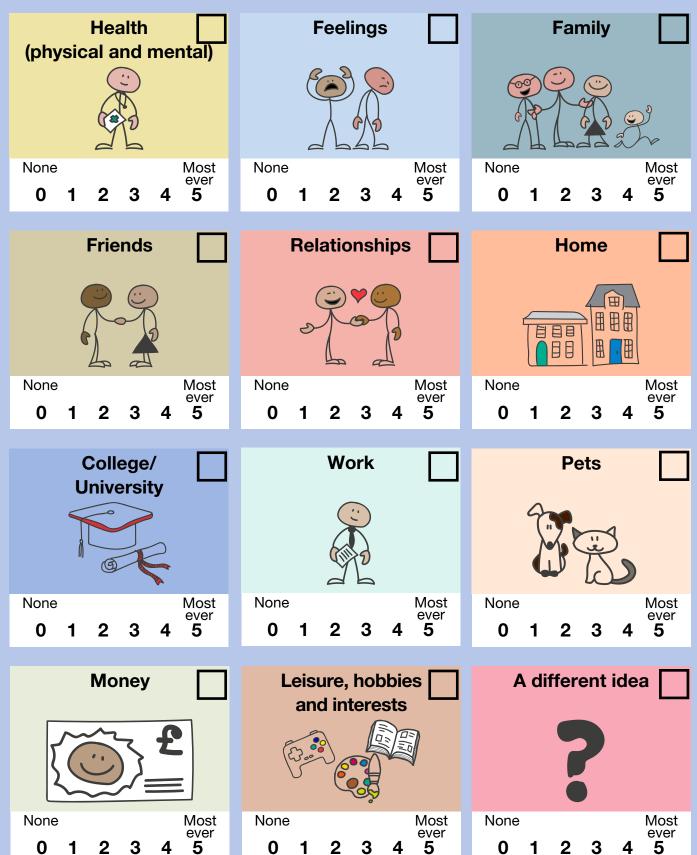
# t's Changed in Your Life Because hat Happened?



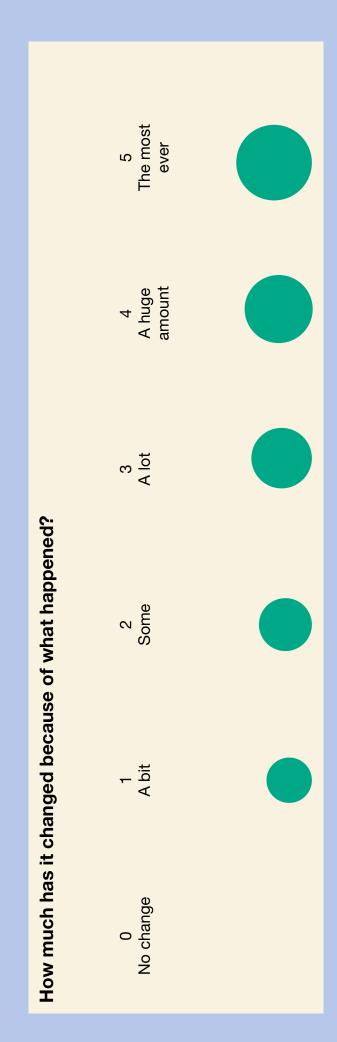
Name:

# What's Changed?





# How much has it Changed?



# What's changed because of what happened?



Click in the green circles for your answer.

and mental)

Health (physical Your thoughts about what has changed



This is worse not changed

better

How much has it changed because of what happened?

No change

A bit

Some

3 A lot

4 A huge amount

5 The most ever









# **Feelings**

Your thoughts about what has changed



This is worse not changed better

How much has it changed because of what happened?

0 No change

A bit

Some

3 A lot

4 A huge amount

5 The most ever











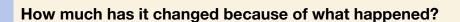


#### **Family**

#### Your thoughts about what has changed

not changed This is worse

better



0 No change

A bit

Some

3 A lot

4 A huge amount

5 The most ever









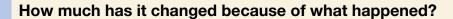
#### **Friends**

#### Your thoughts about what has changed

This is worse

not changed

better



0 No change A bit

2 Some

3 A lot

4 A huge amount













#### Relationships

#### Your thoughts about what has changed



not changed This is worse better

#### How much has it changed because of what happened?

0 No change

1 A bit

2 Some

3 A lot

4 A huge amount

5 The most ever









#### Home

#### Your thoughts about what has changed



This is not changed worse better

#### How much has it changed because of what happened?

0 No change A bit

2 Some

3 A lot

4 A huge amount





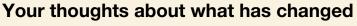








#### College/ **University**





This is worse not changed better

#### How much has it changed because of what happened?

0 No change

1 A bit

2 Some

3 A lot

4 A huge amount

5 The most ever







#### Work

#### Your thoughts about what has changed

This is not changed worse better



#### How much has it changed because of what happened?

0 No change A bit

2 Some

3 A lot

4 A huge amount









Pets

#### Your thoughts about what has changed

not changed This is worse better



How much has it changed because of what happened?

0 1 No change A bit

2 Some

3 A lot

4 A huge amount

5 The most ever







#### Money

#### Your thoughts about what has changed

This is worse not changed better



How much has it changed because of what happened?

0 No change A bit

2 Some

3 A lot

4 A huge amount









5

# and interests

#### Leisure, hobbies Your thoughts about what has changed

not changed This is better worse



#### How much has it changed because of what happened?

0 1 2 3 4 No change A bit Some A lot A huge amount

The most ever



#### Your thoughts about what has changed

This is not changed worse better



0 2 3 4 5 Some No change A bit A lot A huge The most amount ever

# What's changed for because of what happened?



Name of the person in your family this is about:					
Your Name:				Date:	
Health (physical Your thoughts about what has changed					
and mental)	This is	worse not	changed	better	
How much has it changed because of what happened?					
0 No change	1 A bit	2 Some	3 A lot	4 A huge amount	5 The most ever



#### **Feelings**

#### Your thoughts about what has changed



This is worse not changed better

#### How much has it changed because of what happened?

0 No change

1 A bit

2 Some

3 A lot

4 A huge amount

5 The most ever









#### **Family**

#### Your thoughts about what has changed



worse

not changed

better

#### How much has it changed because of what happened?

0 No change A bit

2 Some

3 A lot

4 A huge amount













#### **Friends**

#### Your thoughts about what has changed



This is worse not changed

better

#### How much has it changed because of what happened?

0 No change

1 A bit

2 Some

3 A lot

4 A huge amount

5 The most ever









#### Relationships

#### Your thoughts about what has changed



This is worse not changed better

#### How much has it changed because of what happened?

0 No change A bit

2 Some

3 A lot

4 A huge amount













#### Home

#### Your thoughts about what has changed

not changed This is worse better

#### How much has it changed because of what happened?

0 No change

1 A bit

2 Some

3 A lot

4 A huge amount

5 The most ever











#### Your thoughts about what has changed

This is worse not changed

better



0 No change

A bit

2 Some

3 A lot

4 A huge amount













#### Work

#### Your thoughts about what has changed



This is worse not changed

better

#### How much has it changed because of what happened?

0 No change

1 A bit

2 Some

3 A lot

4 A huge amount

5 The most ever









#### **Pets**

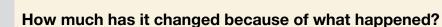
#### Your thoughts about what has changed



worse

not changed

better



0 No change A bit

2 Some

3 A lot

4 A huge amount













5

#### Money

#### Your thoughts about what has changed

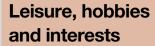
not changed This is worse better



#### How much has it changed because of what happened?

2 3 0 4 No change A bit Some A lot A huge





#### Leisure, hobbies Your thoughts about what has changed

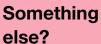
This is worse not changed better



#### How much has it changed because of what happened?

0 2 3 4 5 No change A bit Some A lot A huge The most amount ever







#### Your thoughts about what has changed

This is worse not changed better

#### How much has it changed because of what happened?

0 No change A bit

2 Some

3 A lot

4 A huge amount









# Planning Your Victim Personal Statement: Things to Think About for Children, Young People and some Adults

#### Health (physical and mental)



#### **Being hurt:**

what parts of your body were hurt how long did they hurt for what does this change for you

#### Being poorly:

what illnesses, how long for and what does being poorly change for you

#### **Needing help with strong feelings**

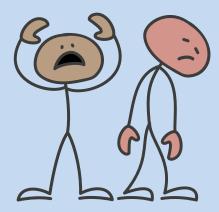
(e.g. depression, wanting to hurt yourself or anxiety)

Sleeping, toilet use and eating pattern changes

Medicine(s) you now need

Hospital, Doctor or Nurse help you've had, still need or are waiting for

#### **Feelings**



Feelings now about yourself and other people

How safe you may feel now

How scared you may feel now

**How threatened** you may feel now

How much you trust people now

Changes in how easy it is to cope with life

Changes in your what you think of the world

**Feelings changes** (e.g. feeling low, worries)

Anything you do now to change how you feel (smoking, drinking alcohol)

#### **Family**



How you get on with family now

Who you see now

What you do with family now

Anything you have **stopped doing** with your family now

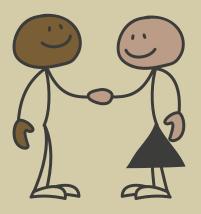
Changes in what your family can do now because of what happened

Changes to your parent/carers because of what happened

Changes to your children because of what happened

Changes to what you get into trouble for now (e.g. fights)

#### **Friends**



Changes to who your friends are now

Changes to where you see friends now

How often you see friends now

How you get on with friends now

Anything you've **stopped doing with friends** now

#### **Relationships (Boyfriend/Girlfriend)**



**How you get on with your partner** now (better or worse)

What you do with partner now

Anything you have **stopped doing** with your partner now

Anything you've started doing together now

Changes in what your partner can do now because of what happened

Break ups because of what happened

Changes to your feelings about having a boyfriend or girlfriend relationship

#### Home



Any of your things needed fixing or still need to get fixed

Any of your things needed a new one getting or a new one is still needed

Any other changes you've had to make to your home because of what happened

Thoughts about where you live now

Anything you've stopped doing at home now

#### School/College/University



How your lesson/courses are going now

Changes to your grades

How often you can cope with being in school/college/ university now

**Concentration** changes

Changes to how keen you are to do work now

School/college/university activities you've missed or could not do

Anything you've **stopped doing** at school/college/university now

#### **Pets**



Any hurt to, loss or death of pets because of what happened

Changes to what your pet does now because of what happened

Changes to what you can do to care for your pet because of what happened

#### Money



Cost for your parent/carer or you, of anything lost, broken or damaged

Your parent/carer taking unpaid time off work to look after you because of what happened

Cost for any professional help (e.g. medical, therapy, counselling, physio, vets, locksmith)

Extra costs that you or your parent/carer paid for because of what happened

Anything you don't have the money to do now because of costs from what happened

#### Leisure, hobbies and interests



Anything you can't do anymore because of what happened

How much you enjoy activities now

How easy it is to do what you used to do

Changes to what activities you do and how often (e.g. sports, clubs) you do them now

Changes to your use of **social media** (e.g. Instagram, Facebook)

What people have sent you on social media because of what happened

#### A different idea



Anything else you want to say

# Professionals you've had help from because of what happened



Help from Police or Court people to answer questions about what happened

	Police or Police Community Support Officer Solicitor	H
	Registered intermediary	Ī
	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)	
b db db	Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA)	
	Probation	
	Youth Offending Service	
	Victim Support Worker	
Professional listening help for ye	our feelings	
	Mental Health professional	
	Counsellor	
	Vicar/ Priest/ Religious group	
6/5/9	Charity (e.g. Samaritans, Mind)	
	Support worker	

5

Restorative Justice worker

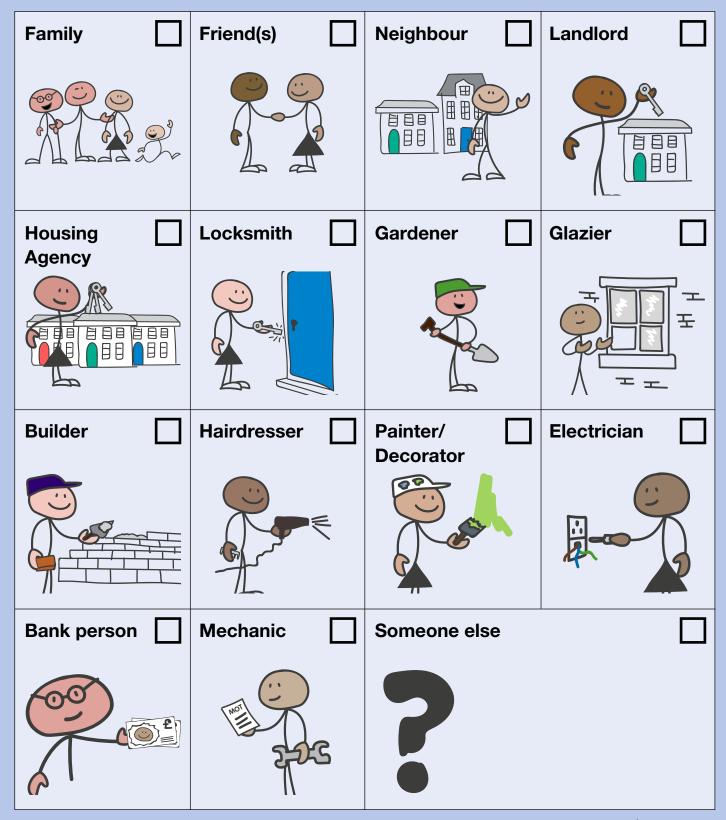


#### Help for you or your family's health

	Doctor  Dentist  Physio	Nurse	
Help with your life or family			
	Social Worker Insurance company		
61 15			
Help with work			
	Teacher		
	Tutor My boss		H
	Workmates		H
Another professional you got he	elp from???		

# People you've had help from because of what happened





# Thoughts and Feelings about what happened



Name:		Date:
Back then, v	when it happened	
1. What my bo	dy was like then (look at the body information	cards):
G/2		

2. My thoughts back then:



3. My feelings back then (look at the feelings cards):



4. How big a feeling?



A tiny bit

2 A bit

3 A lot

4 Really













Name:		Date:	
Now  1. What my body is	like now:		
2. My thoughts now	about what happened:		



3. My feelings now about what happened:



4. How big are my feelings now (about what happened)?

0 No feeling

A tiny bit

2 A bit

3 A lot

4 Really



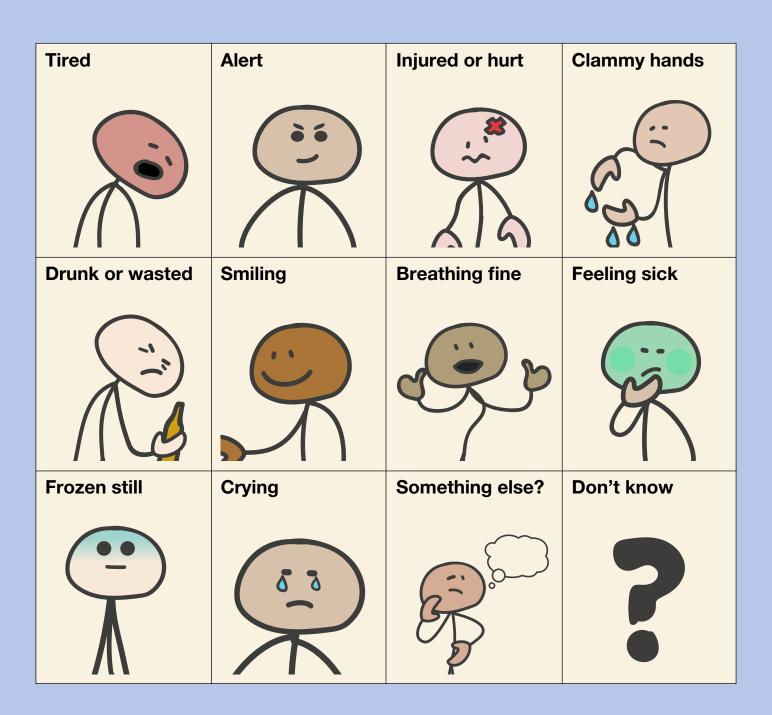




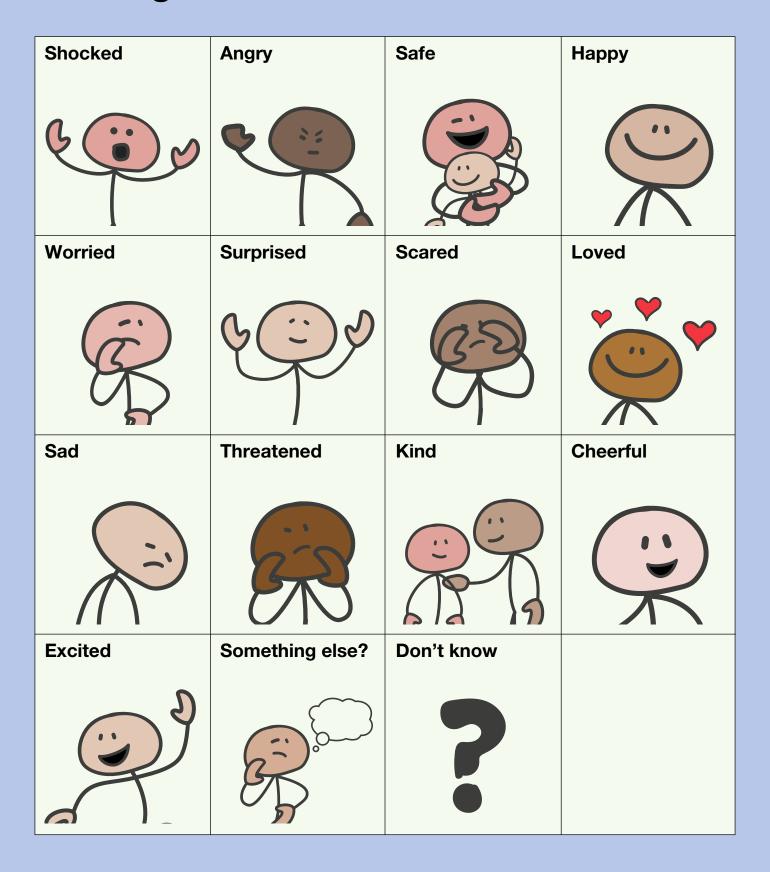


## **Body Information Cards**

Relaxed	Tense	Calm	Numb
Sober/focused	In pain	Heart pounding	Flushed
	W. J. W.		
Cold or shivering	Dizzy	Something else	Don't know



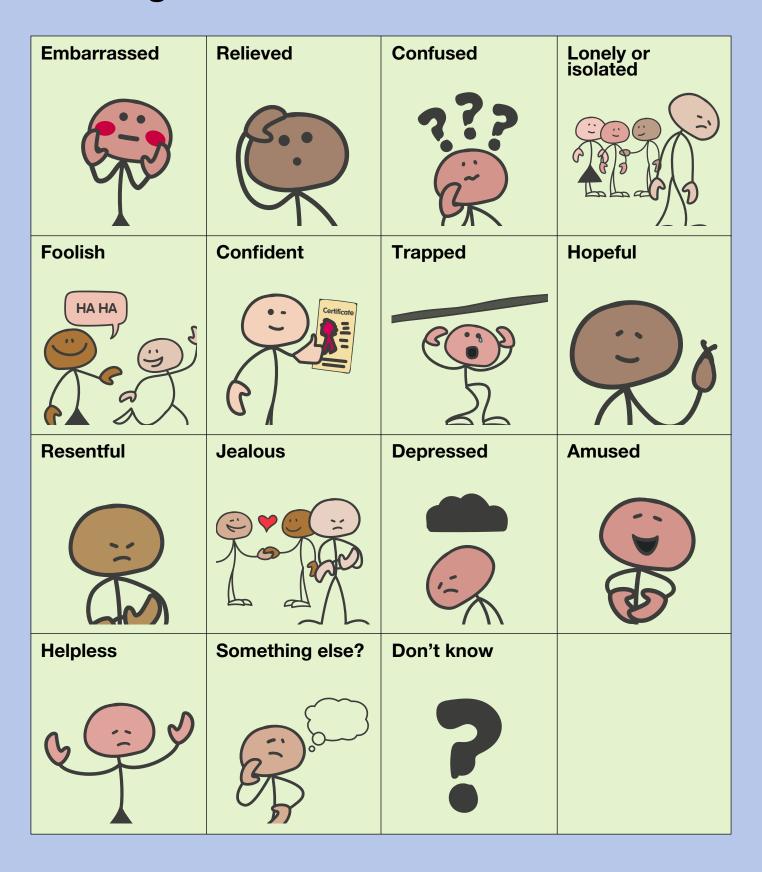
## **Feelings Cards Set 1**



## **Feelings Cards Set 2**

Annoyed	Terrified	Furious	Sorry
Paranoid	Fine/okay/ content	Pleased	Proud
Disgusted	Heard	Lucky	Ashamed
		LOTO 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	
Inspired	Something else?	Don't know	

### **Feelings Cards Set 3**



# My message to the person who hurt or upset me



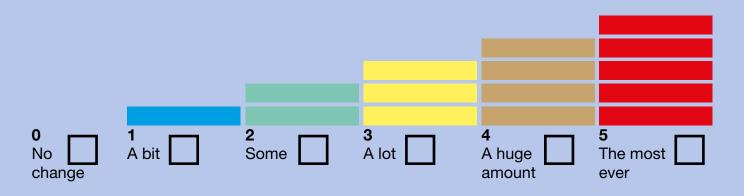
This is **not** part of your Victim Personal Statement. It will not be seen by the court. This sheet is only for you to use and will be kept by you.

Author: Susan Stewart (Speech and Language Therapist) | Page 67

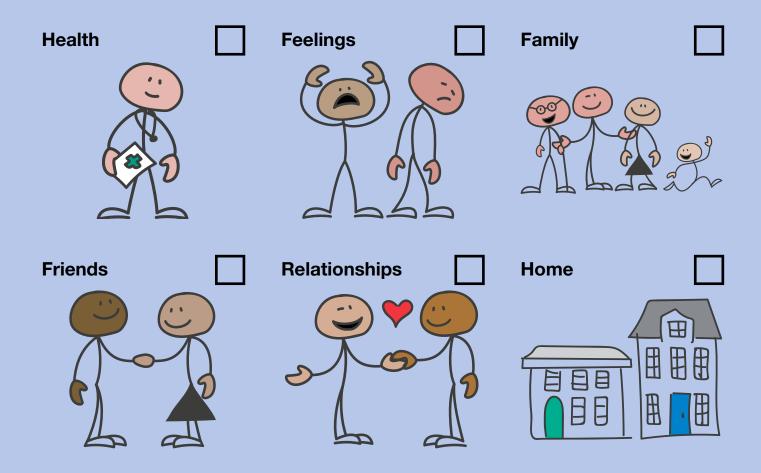
# **My Victim Personal Statement Plan**

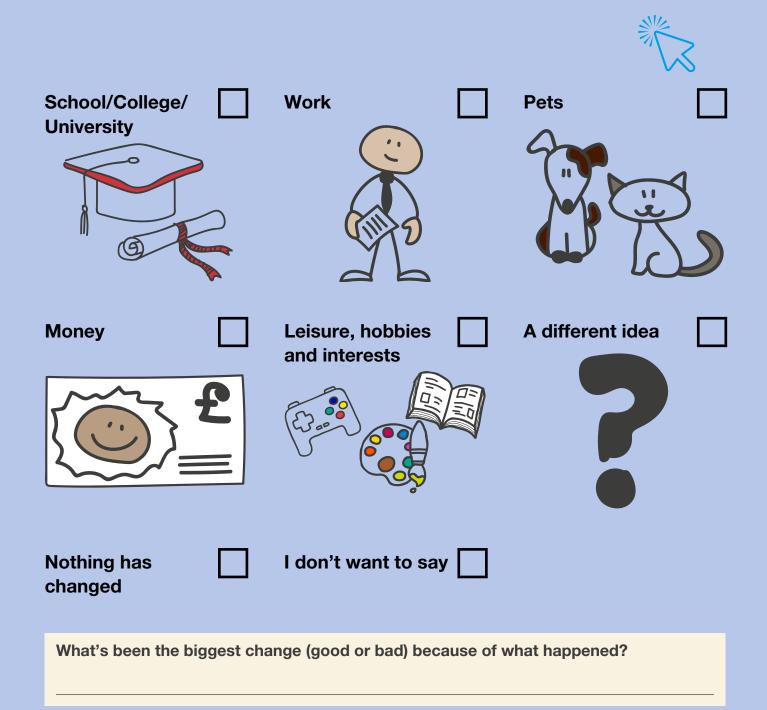


How much has your life changed because of what happened?



Tick anything that's changed because of what happened







What has this meant for you?	
Name of person:	Date:



#### **My Victim Personal Statement**

It is the judge or magistrates who say how and if your Victim Personal Statement is shared with the court. They may say that all, some or none of your Victim Personal Statement is shared. The judge or magistrate say how your Victim Personal Statement will be shared. Tick how you'd like your Victim Personal Statement to be shared with the court You want:

To read your written VPS out yourself. Someone else to read your written VPS out for you. Someone else to share your video recorded VPS with the court when you are not in the courtroom. Your video recording played when you are in the courtroom.



#### Your message to the judge or magistrate

#### Remember:

- This is about how your life has changed because of what happened.
- It cannot be about what you want to happen to the person who hurt you.
- The police officer can use what you write below to fill in the victim personal statement box of their MG11 form.

Name:	Date:

# **Worries for the future** because of what happened

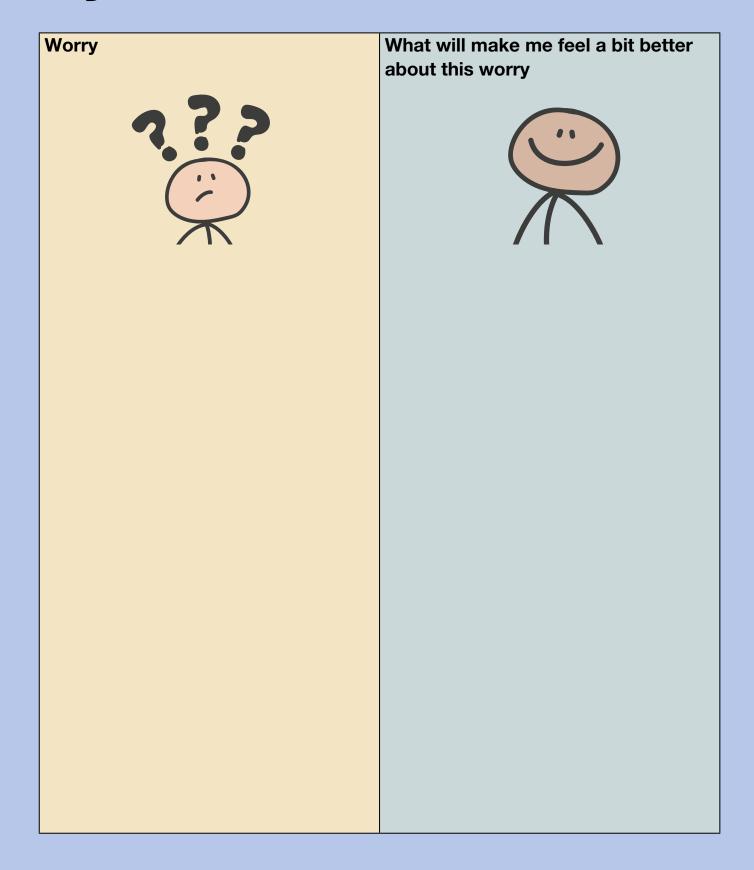




Telling a court what happened	Getting into trouble about what happened	Being safe
Seeing or hearing from the person who hurt you again	What may happen to the person who hurt you	The person who hurt you being let out of the police station or prison
Knowing what will happen next	Being asked questions in court about this Victim Personal Statement	Places the person who hurt you is allowed to go
Being shouted at because of what you write or say	What the friends or family of the person who hurt you may do	How you will cope?
The person you love will be punished	You may lose the person you love	Something else?

# What to do about my worries





# **Diary sheet**



Name:	Date Done:
When it happened: :	
What happened?	
My thoughts about this:	



#### My feelings about this:



#### How big a feeling:



# Thank you to:

Dave Summers (Strategic Manager) and Sarah Caden (Youth Justice Consultant) County Durham Youth Justice Service for kindly allowing Susan Stewart to develop ideas from the ClearCut Communication youth defendant resource 'Going to Court' and 'Thinking About Victims' to benefit witnesses.

The ClearCut Communication catalogue detailing their resources is available here.

The Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner would like to thank Susan and all those who have contributed to the development of these resources.

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# Notes

