

## **Tips for Providing Your Testimony**

*This information sheet may help you prepare your comments for the PA Parole Board. There are questions below to help you consider things that you may want to say. This is your opportunity to share information with the Board that they may not know about the background of the case, the victim(s), the offender, or how you and your family have been affected by the crime.*

### **Details of the Incident**

What happened during the crime? Was a weapon used? If yes, what kind and how? What did the offender say? What did you say? Where did it happen?

### **Emotional Impact**

Has the crime changed your lifestyle or that of those closest to you? Has the crime emotionally affected your ability to work, go to school, run a household, or perform other activities that you enjoy?

### **Physical Impact**

Were you physically injured during the crime? If yes, how? What, if any, medical treatment did you receive? How long did it take for your injuries to heal? Do you have permanent physical injuries or scars from the crime? Are you still injured? Have your physical injuries affected your ability to work, go to school, or perform other activities?

### **Financial Impact**

What, if any, have been the financial costs of the crime to you (ie counseling, medical expenses, replacement of stolen or damaged items, lost work, etc.)? What was taken and what was recovered? Were there items of sentimental value taken? Was restitution ordered by the sentencing judge? If so, how much? Have you received restitution yet?

### **Safety Issues**

Did you know the person that committed the crime? Do you or any family members fear this offender? Has the offender made any attempts to contact you or a family member, threatening or otherwise, since their incarceration? Had the offender been abusive (sexually, physically, or verbally) before this crime incident? Has the offender ever threatened to kill you or a family member? Has the offender ever threatened to kill themselves because of you? Has the offender ever stalked you or a family member? Has the offender ever made harassing or threatening phone calls? Have friends and family members of the offender harassed or threatened you? Do you have or have you ever had a Protection From Abuse (PFA) Order filed against this offender?

*You may include a request that the Victim Advocate petitions the Board (see enclosed brochure) to deny parole and/or set particular conditions (ie where they should be restricted from living, not to contact you, to pay restitution) in the event the offender is granted parole.*

**For further assistance, please contact your Victim Assistance Coordinator.**