










Guidelines for Writing a Letter to the Pre-Sentence Investigator - Community Member

The following suggestions are offered only as a guide. Feel free to write in your own words. Here are some things you may consider writing about. If something makes you uncomfortable, you do not have to address it.

-  Address your letter to the court not the defendant. Letters are to let the court know your feelings. It is permissible to make some comments about the defendant as long as most of the letter is directed to the court.
-  Describe your relationship with the victim and how the loss has affected you.
-  Describe how the crime has impacted your life and the lives of others you know affected by the crime. It's emotional and psychological & financial impact.
-  The affect of the crime on your ability to work or do normal activities, such as going to family events, social events, holidays and any other activity you would normally enjoy.
-  Has this crime affected your trust in humanity and the criminal justice system? If so, tell the court how upsetting it has been to have that trust shaken or that you feel the system has worked.
-  Do write simply and descriptively. Your goal is to help the court feel how this crime has impacted your life. Try to use words that evoke feelings. Your words will help others in the judicial system understand your experience as a family member or friend of the victim.
-  Please use suitable language and show respect for the court. Your goal is to express your hurt, anger and pain, not to blame.
-  Express your wishes to the court about the sentence you think would be appropriate for the defendant.
-  Don't write anything that is untrue or about other crimes the defendant has committed. Deal only with this crime.

Thank you for taking the time to give the court this important information.

Remember to get your letter in the mail by the suggested date.

Letter from Community Member

Note:** *Letters from non-victims.* Members of the community may submit statements to be considered at sentencing under Iowa Code. PSI report by Pre-Sentence Investigator requires harm of the defendant's offense to "the victim, the victim's immediate family, ***and the community."

See Iowa Code, § 901.2(3) & §901.3(5), 2015.

State of Iowa vs. Benjamin G. Trane FECR 009152 So. Lee County, Iowa

Prosecutor: Assistant Attorney General, Denise Timmins

Sentencing Date: _____

Victims: Students and Midwest Academy

Crimes involved:

Count I, Assault w/ Intent to Commit Sexual Abuse

***Count II; Pattern, Practice or Scheme to Engage in Sexual Exploitation by a
Counselor or Therapist***

Count III, Child Endangerment,

Please sign your name and date. Thank you. You may proceed to the letter.

Your Name _____

Relationship to the victim _____

Dated _____

