

What Does the Class Look Like?

Each unit includes the following sections:

- ◆ **What Is ...?** This section covers a particular crime and provides definitions of relevant Words To Know.
- ◆ **In the News: Crime Trends** asks participants to examine crime statistics and talk about any they find surprising.
- ◆ **Examples of** This section provides case studies of crime victims and asks participants to consider how they would feel if they or one of their family members was a victim of this crime.
- ◆ **What's the Impact of ...?** This section asks participants to consider the ripple effect of crime in four areas of impact: *financial, physical, emotional, and religious/spiritual*.
- ◆ **Listen and Learn.** Participants watch a DVD clip that illustrates the impact of a crime on the victim and then discuss it as a group.
- ◆ **Being Accountable for Your Crimes.** Participants read sample accountability statements and discuss/write their own.
- ◆ **Guest victim speaker** (when available).
- ◆ **Discussion/Wrap-Up.**

In addition to these sections, each unit includes additional exercises, if time permits.

What topics does the class cover?

- Unit 1: Getting Started
- Unit 2: Introduction to Victim Impact
- Unit 3: Property Crime
- Unit 4: Assault
- Unit 5: Robbery
- Unit 6: Hate and Bias
- Unit 7: Gang Crime
- Unit 8: Sexual Assault
- Unit 9: Child Abuse and Neglect
- Unit 10: Domestic Violence
- Unit 11: Drunk and Impaired Driving
- Unit 12: Homicide
- Unit 13: Making Amends

Where Can I Learn More?

All the training materials can be found at: <https://www.ovcttac.gov/victimimpact/index.cfm>. If you click on the “presenter’s toolbox” link, you will find Facilitator Manual, Participant Manual, and Video clips for each unit.

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Virginia
Department of Corrections

VICTIM IMPACT: LISTEN AND LEARN Offender Curriculum



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What is Victim Impact: Listen and Learn?

Victim Impact: Listen and Learn was developed by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) in 2006, with Virginia as one of four pilot states. This education/awareness curriculum is focused on sensitizing offenders to the impact that crime has on victims, victims' families, and the community. The program is structured to build accountability for the harm offenders have caused and to foster empathy toward crime victims and survivors. The program does NOT require any level of disclosure by offenders concerning their specific crimes.

Length of class: 13 weeks

Duration of class: 2-2.5 hours per week

Crime topics covered: Property crime, assault, robbery, hate and bias crimes, gang crime, sexual assault, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, drunk/impaired driving, homicide

What is the Goal?

The goal of the class is to help offenders become more aware of the impact that crime has on victims and to take responsibility for their actions and begin to make amends.

The basic precepts of the *Victim Impact* curriculum are—

- ◆ Victims and the impact of crime on them are the focus.
- ◆ Victims' personal experiences are the centerpiece.
- ◆ Victims deserve to have their rights enforced and their voices heard.
- ◆ Anyone can become a victim of crime.
- ◆ Victimization creates a “ripple effect” throughout the community.
- ◆ Offenders have the opportunity to change their thinking and their behavior.
- ◆ Offenders have an obligation to make amends to their victims, directly and indirectly.

How Do Offenders Participate?

- ◆ The program is currently expanding to additional facilities across the state. It will be available in Probation & Parole in the future.
- ◆ Enrollment in the program is voluntary, and recruitment varies by individual facility.

What If an Offender's Crime Isn't Listed?

Disclosure of one's crime is not required, and this educational curriculum discussing empathy and accountability can be widely relevant. Additionally, class materials demonstrate that even when crime types vary, many of the impacts on victims and the community remain the same.

What Do Offenders Receive for Participating?

Offenders receive a certificate of completion if they attend at least 12 of the 13 units. The class is not mandatory and participation does not provide any special privileges.



VICTIM IMPACT:
Listen and Learn