

(This question pertains to Superior Court judges only.)

State law requires the Council to conduct an evaluation of judges standing for retention, and to provide information to the public about the judges. Under a provision added in 2013, the information the Council provides to the public "shall include the judge's consideration of victims when imposing sentence on persons convicted of felony offenses where the offenses involve victims." (see AS 22.10.150). Although the Council's evaluations address all aspects of judicial performance, including felony sentencing, they have not in the past explicitly solicited judges' thoughts on this topic.

Please submit a short statement about how you consider victims when imposing sentences in felony offenses.

See attached letter.



Superior Court
State of Alaska
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ANDREW GUIDI
Superior Court Judge

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February 28, 2020

Susanne DiPietro
Alaska Judicial Council
510 L Street, Suite 450
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Ms. DiPietro:

The Council has asked how I consider victims when imposing sentences in felony offenses. To the best of my recollection, I have had only one felony sentencing to date. In that case the victim of a burglary received notice of the sentencing and attended the hearing. The victim was given an opportunity to be heard and invited to comment on the adequacy of the sentence recommended by the State and the sentence suggested by the defendant. This provided me an opportunity to take the victim's comments into account in formulating the defendant's sentence.

I believe it's very important that victims be given adequate notice of sentencing hearings and provided a fair opportunity to be heard. This is essential not only to inform the judge's decision but also to provide the victim a sense of restorative justice, that is, a sense of healing that only comes from a belief that the community cares about the harm suffered by the victim.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Guidi". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andrew Guidi
Superior Court Judge