

(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.

Because I preside over a primarily civil caseload, I do not routinely make sentencing decisions in criminal matters. I have, however, imposed sentences in felony criminal matters while presiding over cases in our Mental Health Court. Whether in a therapeutic or more regular criminal court setting, consideration of a victim's account, perspective, and concerns is crucial to developing as full as possible an understanding of the events underlying criminal charges and/or convictions, and to appropriately applying the Chaney criteria. Victim participation also enhances the ability to provide for meaningful case planning in the therapeutic court setting.

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