

(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.

In all cases with a victim, I ask the victim if he/she would like to speak. I want to know how a crime has affected the victim. I am aware of how tough it is for a victim to come to court and speak, and sometimes to see the person who hurt them. I have postponed a sentencing more than once because the victim was unable to attend or to at least speak by phone. One of the sentencing factors the statute requires judges to consider is "the extent to which the offense harmed the victim." I listen carefully to the victim's statement so I can apply this law.

Gregory Miller