

(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.

A victim has the right to participate in a felony sentencing. When a victim attends a sentencing hearing, I address the victim directly and explain that he/she has the right to make a statement, but does not need to speak if he/she does not wish to. If a crime victim does not attend a sentencing hearing, I inquire with the prosecutor about how the victim was notified of the hearing, and assess whether those attempts were adequate before proceeding with the sentencing. In every case, before sentencing a defendant, I determine whether the sentence appropriately addresses victim restoration.

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