

(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.

Each judge is obligated to work through a statutory framework to eliminate unjustified disparity in sentences and to promote uniformity for similarly situated defendants. At each sentencing, I consider the nature and circumstances of the current charge, the prior criminal history if any; the effect of the sentence in deterring this defendant or others from future criminal conduct, the effect the sentence imposed has on community condemnation of defendant's criminal act and as a reaffirmation of societal norms.

In cases involving victims, I consider the impact of the case to the victim, look to the victim impact statement, and ask if the victim would like to be heard during the sentencing hearing. At each sentencing it is important that I convey an appropriate message condemning the criminal conduct, and providing a safe forum for the victim to be heard.

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