

Community Impact Statements

Community Impact Statements (CIS) are letters that the public can send to local prosecutors. These letters are placed in the file of those who are accused of crimes and are available to judges to consider during the sentencing phase of trials. The purpose of the Community Impact Statements is to assist the court in assessing whose quality of life is diminished because of the unwillingness of the person or persons in question to abide by the ordinances and laws of the community. Victims and community members are in the best positions to inform the court of the situation.

The CIS can address large juvenile drinking parties or anyone who has provided alcohol to minors. These actions are crimes that directly affect the quality of life for families and businesses in our communities. All parents are victims of this crime. Until adults start going to jail for providing alcohol to minors, the crime will continue, and the underage drinking issue will continue to be the number one cause of death for youth.

PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. attempts to track as many arrests for providing alcohol to minors as possible. We will try to bring publicity to these cases so that more meaningful consequences will be imposed by the courts. If you know that an arrest has been made, please contact our office, 397-3309, with that information. When we learn of cases, we will find the court date and attend the court proceedings. The CIS does not have to be long or complicated. It is simply putting into writing your thoughts and observations that apply to the case being considered by the court. The following is the suggested format. Sample letters are available. Please use them as guides, but use your own words. Please write or type the CIS very legibly.

Guidelines for Community Impact Statements:

1. Address your letter to the City or County Prosecutor (See list on back of this page.)
2. Introduce yourself
 - State your name. If you represent a group, name that group and your position in it.
 - List the name of the accused and the time and location of the crime under consideration.
3. Describe the ongoing, or recurring, problem as it has affected your community.
 - List specific problems you have observed regarding the accused.
 - Dates and times are helpful if you have the details.
 - If you don't know about the specific case, you can provide testimony regarding the problems of underage drinking and the impact that adolescent alcohol use is having on children and families.
 - Explain how these actions have harmed the quality of life in your community.
 - Note how the problem of underage drinking has increased in recent years because so few providers of alcohol to minors are ever punished enough to deter others.
4. Ask for Court Action to remedy the problem—urge strong consequences.
5. Thank the prosecutor and the court for their time and attention to this matter.

County Attorney Contact Lists

The following is the most-current list of local prosecutors in the LiveWise Coalition geographical region of Nebraska:

CASS COUNTY

Nathan B. Cox
Cass County Attorney
329 Main Street
Plattsmouth, Nebraska 68048
Ph: 402-296-9346
Fx: 402-296-9350

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Marty Conboy
Omaha City Prosecutor
Hall of Justice
1701 Farnam Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68183
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Fx: 402-444-7730
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SAUNDERS COUNTY

Scott Tingelhoff
Saunders County Attorney
433 North Chestnut Street
Wahoo, Nebraska 68066
Ph: 402-443-8151
Fx: 402-443-4527
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DODGE COUNTY

Paul Vaughan
Dodge County Attorney
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Fremont, Nebraska 68026
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Fx: 402-727-2807
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SARPY COUNTY

Lee Polikov
Sarpy County Attorney
1210 Golden Gate Drive, Suite 31
Papillion, Nebraska 68046
Ph: 402-593-2230
Fx: 402-593-4359
E-Mail: attorney@sarpy.com

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Shurie Graeve
Washington County Attorney
1555 Colfax Street
Blair, Nebraska 68008
Ph: 402-426-6811
Fx: 402-426-6826
E-Mail: n/a

Please send copies of your CIS to PRIDE-Omaha, Inc., 6143 Whitmore Street, Omaha, NE 68152 or fax to 402-397-9924, or e-mail to drugwatch6@aol.com.

Please call 402-397-3309 if you need assistance in writing your CIS letters.

"This project is supported in part by LiveWise and Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare through the Substance Abuse Block Grant of the Department of Health and Human Services System."



Revised 10/27/2009