

**24-Hour Toll-Free
Confidential
Counseling Hotline**

888-999-5545 (English)

888-568-8332 (Español)

Your Victim Advocate is:

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**The
Pre -
Sentence
Investigation
(PSI)**

A guide for victims



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What is a Pre-Sentence Investigation?

The Pre-Sentence Investigation (PSI) is a report with information about the offender, the offense, and the offender's personal history. The report can be ordered by the judge who is sentencing the offender or the offender can ask for it. The PSI gives the judge a full assessment of the offender and the offense in order to help sentence the offender. Then, after sentencing, the PSI helps probation and parole officers to decide the level of supervision and conditions for the offender.

How does a PSI involve me?

The PSI includes a section for victim input. This section is for the victim's thoughts and feelings about the sentencing of the offender. It is different from other statements that you may have given in that it is not about what you can or cannot prove, but , lets you tell the court of how the offense has affected different areas of your life. It also includes your opinions on sentencing and probation restrictions that may be put on the offender. This statement is your chance to make sure that the judge knows and understands all sides of the offense.

Some things to think about might be...

...how the offense and following experiences have affected your life.

- Work
- School
- Finances
- Relationships
- Home/Living situation
- Friends/Family
- Health issues
- Behavioral changes
- Anxiety
- Depression

...what you would like to see happen in terms of sentencing.

- Supervision (probation/parole)
- No contact with you or your family or friends
- Sex offender registration
- No contact with minors
- Restitution
- Treatment
- Other restrictions

What is in a PSI?

The PSI contains information about the offense, both as charged and as convicted. It tells the story the offense, as reported in the police reports and arrest warrants. The offender is also given a chance to present his/her version of the offense. The victim's name is not included in the PSI.

Then comes the personal history of the offender. This is a full story about the offender's life,

including the offender's family, childhood, school/education ,work, relationships, physical and mental health, criminal history, and use of drugs and alcohol. It may also include the report and recommendations of any specialized evaluations that were done, such as a sex offender evaluation.

The Probation Officer who writes the PSI will get information for the report from the police reports, arrest warrants, completed evaluations, and the offender's relatives, past employers, schools, and the offender

Who sees the PSI?

The judge who is sentencing the offender, the prosecutor, the defense attorney, and the offender will see the PSI. It will then be kept by the prison, parole office, or probation office that is responsible for the offender. It will be available to people who supervise the offender. Remember that the victim's name is not included in the PSI.

What kind of help is available to me?

A Victim Advocate is available to help you make your statement. You may provide this information by phone, in writing, or in person. The Victim Advocate can also answer questions about the case, the court process, and help for victims. The Victim Advocate may even go with you to the sentencing to provide support.