

# VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

Name: Murray Kitching

The victim must be informed:

- that the information is being ascertained for submission to the judicial officer sentencing the offender if the accused is found guilty or pleads guilty; and
- that the information must be true; and
- that the information must be recorded and may be verified in the manner set out at the bottom of this form; and
- about who may properly see or make or keep copies of the information ascertained, and about the orders, directions, and conditions, relating to disclosure and distribution of it, that may be made.

Statement to take narrative form and to cover the following:

**Victims details** if appropriate  
- eg, age, occupation, gender, living arrangements/marital status, relationship to offender (if any), ethnic origin.

**Physical injuries**  
- include type and extent of injuries, long/short term effects, whether treatment/absence from work/hospitalisation reqd, medical/dental reports.

**Financial costs**  
- include costs of treatment, replacement/repair costs, loss of wages/income, incidental costs.

**Emotional harm**  
- include changes in behaviour, lifestyle, personal reaction. Include details of treatment, counselling as appropriate. Attach any relevant reports.

**Any other effects**

My name is Murray Trevor Kitching. I am [redacted] years old and employed as a [redacted]

On March 22, 2005 I was [redacted] prisoner Arthur Taylor [redacted] when the defendant appeared in front of me holding a gun and Taylor escaped. I thought my number was up. A gun and Arthur Taylor – “those two together that’s right” – I thought “that’s it”. There were 101 things going through my mind, I was thinking about my partner because I’m getting married for the first time in four weeks, I was definitely feeling that something was going to happen. I had “hostage” running through my brain and thought one of us would die. They knew what they were doing. We chased the two guys and I knew he (Manu Royal) could be waiting there for us with the gun. I had anxiety to the max. My heart was racing and I had an incredible headache straight away.

I spent about four hours that day at the police station giving statements and then had to do the same at the prison. When I got home I was very upset. That night my Mum and Dad rang me on my cell phone and I said “Mum, I had a gun pointed at me” and I started to cry. I didn’t sleep at all that night. The next day I had off work and I couldn’t believe what had happened. I’ve never had anyone escape from me in custody in the nearly 12 years I’ve been doing this job. [redacted] we’re the ones controlling it, but when your life is in someone else’s hands it’s not right, you’ve lost that control.

The incident happened on just my second day at [redacted]. Since then I’ve been back to work on and off but after seeing the doctor and a psychologist for anxiety, I took three weeks off and now I’ve been [redacted]

[redacted] where I’m still doing short weeks until I get back into the swing of things. This time off is eating into my sick leave at the moment. I’ve been told I can stay at Mt Crawford until I’m ready to return to [redacted] but until Taylor’s gone [redacted] I don’t want to go back there.



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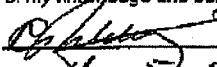
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I've been so anxious. I go round the corner at work and I'm not sure what's waiting for me. I went for a bike ride recently as the psychologist suggested and every corner I went round I was thinking there was someone waiting for me. I've had a number of headaches and I hardly ever get headaches. I go to sleep okay but I wake up in the middle of the night. I've had a couple of dreams about it. I've been having counseling with a psychologist -- I'm surprised at how much it has affected me. It's made me think about [redacted] and reassess a few things. I feel gutted. I'm very pissed off. I know I've got anxiety there, which I never knew I had before.

<p><i>I have given the information in this Victim Impact Statement knowing that it is for submission to the judicial officer sentencing the offender, and know that the information must be true. The information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.</i></p> <p>Signature: <u></u> (victim)</p> <p>Date: <u>16-5-05</u></p>	<p><b>OR (if it is not practicable for the victim to sign)</b></p> <p><i>I have advised the victim that the information in this Victim Impact Statement is for submission to the judicial officer sentencing the offender, and that the information must be true. I have read it to the victim and am satisfied that the victim approves of it.</i></p> <p>Signature: _____ Name: _____</p> <p>Designation: _____ Date: _____</p>
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16/08/2023

**Victims Special Claims Tribunal**

**PVC 02-362**

**To be attached to the Claim Form**

**PART 3: Details of the Offence and the Offender**

Arthur Taylor

**What Was Their Offence?**

- Kidnapping
- Abduction
- Aggravated Assault with a Firearm

**PART 4: What Sort of Compensation Are You Claiming?**

**B. Damages for Consequential Economic Loss as a Result of Loss of, or Damage to, Property**

**Compensation Sought: \$39,140.91**

I am seeking appropriate compensation for the loss of my career with [REDACTED] and the income shortfall incurred during the transition to establishing myself as [REDACTED]

**Details**

Following the incident, I experienced immediate headaches, heightened anxiety, sleepless nights, hyper-vigilance, and intrusive thoughts that someone was around the next corner waiting to get me. I had 10 EAP (Employee Assistance Program) sessions, which did help to some extent. My partner attended 4 sessions with me, and we discussed the impact this incident had on both her and our relationship. The emotional toll and psychological effects of this traumatic event continued to significantly impact both my personal and professional life. I no longer felt safe in the prison working environment or mentally well enough to perform my role. Consequently, I made the difficult decision to step away from a [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] a career I loved and had envisioned until retirement. This loss brought profound grief and necessitated a re-evaluation of my goals and redefinition of success in a new context.

**Loss of Income Calculation and Shortfalls**

The incident and my subsequent resignation from [REDACTED] had a significant negative impact on my income.

In 2005, my pay rate with [REDACTED] was \$45,186, excluding overtime. Assuming a pay rate of \$45,186 per annum and the assumption that I was able to maintain employment [REDACTED]:

- **2006:** My Taxable Income was \$38,658.50. This resulted in a shortfall of \$6,527.50 for the 2006 financial year.

- **2007:** My Taxable Income was \$37,638.59. This led to a shortfall of \$7,547.41 for the 2007 financial year.
- **2008:** My Taxable Income was \$20,120.00. This resulted in a significant shortfall of \$25,066.00 for the 2008 financial year.

**When taking into account the first three years of self-employment following the incident and my inability to maintain a role [REDACTED] as a direct result, the total shortfall amounts to at least \$39,140.91. This calculation excludes any amounts from recalls/call backs, which I regularly worked but couldn't provide specific figures for.**

### **C. Damages for Emotional Harm**

#### **Compensation Sought: \$2,500**

I am seeking appropriate compensation for the emotional distress this incident caused me and continues to cause me. This compensation can also provide funding for further EAP or counselling sessions should I require them.

#### **Details**

The experience of being held up at gunpoint caused me significant emotional harm and psychological distress. Beyond the immediate effects, the incident continues to have a profound impact on my life. I experience vivid flashbacks (reliving the incident), intrusive thoughts, and get distressed/angry at real or symbolic reminders of the trauma.

Following the incident, I got married in June 2006. However, the effects impacted what should have been a happy occasion. During the wedding reception, my best man, who had also been on escort duty with me on the day of the incident, couldn't hold back his emotions and broke down in tears during his speech. The weight of our shared experience clearly stirred painful memories for him. Regrettably, the impact of the incident extended beyond my own well-being, affecting the emotional dynamics of one of the most important days of my life.

Approximately two years ago, Arthur Taylor was paroled to [REDACTED], which is about a [REDACTED] drive from my house. As I'm [REDACTED] and my van is sign-written with my name on it, anxiety set in, and I felt I needed to let my staff know as well as my family, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] that he wasn't living far from where I live and work. With the proximity to the offender close to home and in my immediate area of work, the fear and my vulnerability intensified, putting me on edge and concerned for my safety.

The emotional distress I continue to experience in relation to the traumatic event is exacerbated by regular reminders of the event. Each time brings back a flood of memories and emotions associated with the initial incident, intensifying my anxiety, fear, and feelings of vulnerability. It is important to recognize that the emotional distress caused by triggers, through regular media commentary or interviews with the offender, is an on-going burden that affects my life. Compensation can provide a sense of justice and recognition for the emotional harm endured, helping to support me and provide a measure of comfort and security in navigating the challenges posed by these triggers.

Throughout my healing journey, the presence of a supportive partner has played a crucial role. My wife's willingness to listen, understand, and validate my experiences has provided a safe space for me to express my emotions, including anger, frustration, and fear. In addition to her unwavering support, specific coping mechanisms and strategies have been instrumental in my recovery, allowing me to navigate the challenges associated with the traumatic event. These include engaging in physical exercise and seeking support from friends as required.

#### **D. Damages for Physical Harm**

**Compensation Sought: \$2,500**

I am seeking appropriate compensation for physical harm. I had an operation for a heart stent in [REDACTED] at the age of [REDACTED]. I feel the effects of on-going mental stress were a contributing factor, as this incident has been on my mind ever since [REDACTED]. I try to live as I can, but the long-term effects never go away.

#### **Impact on Quality of Life**

This traumatic incident has had a profound impact on my overall quality of life. Beyond the emotional and physical tolls, it has led to changes in my social life, hobbies, and day-to-day activities. I find it challenging to engage in activities I once enjoyed, and my sense of safety and security has been compromised. The incident has also strained relationships with family and friends, leading to further emotional distress.

#### **Impact on Family and Relationships**

The traumatic incident has affected my relationships with family members, friends, and colleagues. The distress and anxiety I experience have led to communication challenges and feelings of isolation. The strain on these relationships has added to the emotional burden I carry as a result of the incident.

#### **Financial Documentation**

I have included a [REDACTED] advice and tax records from the Inland Revenue to demonstrate the economic losses I incurred due to the career change and transition to [REDACTED]. These documents support the financial impact the incident has had on my life.

#### **Conclusion and Compensation**

In conclusion, being held up at gunpoint had a profound and multifaceted impact on my life. The emotional harm and loss of a career I loved have presented challenges in my life journey. Recognizing these various damages and seeking appropriate compensation are essential in acknowledging the lasting effects of such a traumatic event, supporting my on-going recovery, and providing a sense of justice. Compensation can help address the financial losses incurred, provide resources for counselling and support services to aid in my healing process, and contribute to pursuing career opportunities should I need to. It is not only about financial restitution but also about acknowledging the value of the losses I have suffered and providing a form of redress for the damages caused. By advocating for appropriate compensation, my aim is to ensure that individuals who have experienced traumatic events receive the recognition and support they need to rebuild their lives and find a sense of justice.

**Total Sum of Damages**

**\$44,340.91**

## Attachments

- 18/04/2005: EAP Services – Susan Wall (Registered Psychologist)
- 16/05/2005: Victim Impact Statement – Murray Kitching
- 15/07/2005: Accident Report: Form of Register of Circumstances of Accident or Serious Harm
- 27/07/2005: [REDACTED] – Kitching M
- 20/08/2005: Dominion Post Article 'I Feared Death in Escape, Says [REDACTED]'
- 28/09/2005: EAP Services – Susan Wall (Registered Psychologist)
- 12/08/2023: Email from the Inland Revenue – Jenn Gibbs (Customer Service Officer) Taxable  
Income

Sincerely,

Murray Kitching.