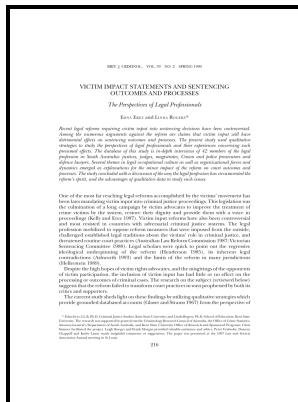


Victim impact testimony and the psychology of punishment

American Bar Foundation - Resources for Victim Service Providers



Description: -

Improvisation (Acting)

Jurors -- United States -- Decision-making

Sentences (Criminal procedure) -- United States

Victims of crimes -- United States Victim impact testimony and the psychology of punishment

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Victim Impact Testimony and the Psychology of Punishment (2003)

In no type of case are victim impact statements more debated than in capital i. American Journal of Forensic Psychology, 22, 39-55.

Victim Impact Statements

Two Supreme Court rulings are pivotal in discussing the impact that victim impact statements are allowed to have in death penalty cases. Certain juror characteristics also appear to affect the way victim impact statements are perceived.

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Victim impact statements and mock juror sentencing: The impact of dehumanizing language on a death-qualified sample. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Victim Impact Testimony and the Psychology of Punishment (2003)

The primary debate stems from the fact that victim impact statements are not evidence; rather, they simply serve as a context through which the jury should interpret the impact of the crime. Opining on death: Witness sentence recommendations in capital trials.

Victim Impact Testimony and the Psychology of Punishment (2003)

Third, psycholegal researchers have advocated that the jury be prohibited from hearing descriptions of the defendant in dehumanizing terms e.

Victim Impact Testimony and the Psychology of Punishment

Thus, Victim Impact reduces recidivism and can provide significant cost savings.

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Fourth, social scientists recommend that juries be given more guidance about the purpose of victim impact statements when they are admitted. Although not constitutionally mandated, several states e. Journal of Applied Social Psychology, 28, 145-156.

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