

# VICTIM IMPACT PANEL FEE

## OFFICE OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEY MEMO

**To:** James Guse, Board of Commissioners  
**From:** Scott L. Teter  
**Subject:** Victim Impact Panel  
**Date:** July 8, 1998

As you are aware, District Court, Probate Court, Circuit Court, and the Prosecutor's Office developed a Victim Impact Panel for Cass County. The Victim Impact Panel has been used successfully in many places for years and brings the drinking offender face to face with people whose lives have been dramatically altered by a drunk driver. The atmosphere is non-confrontational but allows the panel members to tell their story. The program also includes a video entitled "Drunk and Deadly" which documents a 24-hour period on America's highways and the drunk driving fatalities that occur during that time produced by MADD. All three courts are sentencing drinking offenders to the program.

There are certain costs incurred by the program which should be covered by the offender. The program is run by a moderator who is a licensed psychologist. He assisted our office in developing the program but travels a considerable distance to run it. His time and mileage are legitimate expenses of the program. The victim coordinator for the Prosecutor's Office is responsible for contacting victims and other panel members for each panel. She also attends each panel as a support person for the victim. Other programs charge a fee to the offender for participating in the panel.

I am requesting the Board of Commissioners approve a fee of \$10.00 to be charged to each offender attending the victim impact panel. Please see the attached proposed budget.

### M-105-98

A motion to approve/disapprove a \$10 victim impact panel fee.

ADOPTED: 07/30/1998