



Writing a Testimony for RoadPeace

What is a testimony?

A testimony summarises a crash and its consequences for the victim and for their family, including their experience of the criminal justice system.

Why is it needed?

The consequences of road collisions are traditionally measured by casualty numbers - the simple statistics of those killed and injured in the previous year. Victims from previous years are ignored and forgotten.

A testimony highlights the impact and devastation caused by a crash on the bereaved, the 'secondary' casualties who still suffer life changing consequences.

We also encourage those who have suffered life changing injuries, their families and carers to write testimonies about how their own lives and those of their families have been affected by a crash.

Our aim is to raise awareness of the human costs of road crashes.

What should it contain?

We suggest a basic three part structure:

1. Summary of the crash itself

Date, location, circumstances of the crash and details of the victim (age, gender, road user type, and relationship to the bereaved).

2. The legal response to the crash.

This would include the thoroughness of the collision investigation, whether anyone was charged, if cost to the victim was recognised in the charge, if the prosecution was well prepared and effective, if sentencing was proportionate and the fairness of any civil compensation (not the amount).

3. The impacts it has had on your life and your family.

This should include the emotional toll as well as financial and physical, if possible.

Please do include a photo. This could either be a scanned photo if you are emailing the testimony or send us a photo and we will send it back to you that same week.

Testimonies should include the names of both the victim and the person who has written the testimony.

How long?

It should be no longer than two sides of A4. We are keen to publish these Testimonies. Longer versions can go on our website.

How will it be used by RoadPeace?

We would like to publish these on our website and also use them with our campaign work. Some will be published in sets with a common theme, such as drink driving, speeding, mobile phone, by geographical area, death of a child (including grown children) or a partner.

How can RoadPeace help?

We can send you a copy of previous testimonies and you can also send in a draft copy if you would like to discuss it with us further. Contact us at info@roadpeace.org or call the office number.