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| **OFFICERS**  President  **F. CLAYTON TYLER**  Vice President  **KELLY KEEGAN**  Treasurer  **ANDY BIRRELL**  Secretary  **RYAN GARRY**  Emeritus  **PIPER KENNEY WOLD**  Executive Director  **SUE EVENS**  \*\*\*\*\*  **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  Jill Brisbois  Patrick Cotter  Ryan Else  Jim Fleming  Andrew Garvis  Gretchen Gurstelle  Dan Koewler  Bill Mauzy  Ryan Pacyga  Robert Richman  Bruce Rivers  Katherian Roe  Jeff Sheridan  David Valentini  Jean Brandl  Andrew Mohring |  | January 9, 2019  To Whom It May Concern:  The Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (MACDL) strongly supports the inclusion of family impact statements in the presentence investigation process.  At sentencing, the criminal court is making a important policy decision that not only effects the defendant and the victim, but effects the community as a whole.  The  court's decision to send a defendant to prison, order specific chemical dependency or mental health treatment, or other terms of probation have the greatest impact on the larger community through the defendant's family.  For example, if a husband and father of two who supports the family financially is sent to prison, the mother will have to make up for the financial loss, the boys will have fewer resources and lose the male role model, and the community will have to increase support of the family.  The attached *Children and Families of the Incarcerated Fact Sheet*shows the many societal costs of a parent being incarcerated, most notably the disparate racial impact, the increased use of the welfare system, and the increase in children in foster care.  In the long term, this may lead to greater public safety risk by having a larger population of children with "adverse childhood experience (ACE), which studies have shown "ACE are associated with a range of negative outcomes in adulthood, including physical and mental health disorders and aggressive behavior.ACE are associated with a range of negative outcomes in adulthood, including physical and mental health disorders and aggressive behavior."  James Reavis, The Permanente Journal, *Adverse Childhood Experiences and Adult Criminality: How Long Must We Live before We Possess Our Own Lives?,*Spring (2013), available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3662280/>.  When the court has to make difficult, complex decisions at sentencing, it should be armed with as much knowledge as possible as to the potential impacts of the decision.  This bill will be a step in the right direction to ensure the children and other family members effected are considered in that decision.  Sincerely,  F. Clayton Tyler  President, Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers |