

APPROVED SEVENTH DISTRICT VICTIM RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 9, 2024

Committee	Seventh District Victims' Rights Committee Meeting October 9, 2024
Date Time Location	October 09, 2024 09:00-11:00 am Moab/Virtual: https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/88465832581?pwd=9SmmlLb78DAxUPdnD6PxK4GCSQZcU7.1
Members Present	<u>Virtual Attendance</u> : Keri Jensen, Vanessa Justesen, Shelley Wright, Stephen Stocks, Tyson Huntington <u>In-Person Attendance</u> : Andrea Noyes
Staff & Visitors	<u>Staff</u> : Katie Fox <u>Visitors</u> : Megan Riddle
Agenda Item	Welcome & Introductions/Establish Quorum - Andrea Noyes
Notes	Andrea Noyes welcomed the committee and thanked them for serving. This is the first meeting of this committee. There are no previous meeting minutes to review.
Agenda Item	Discussion of the Victim Rights Process-Katie Fox
Notes	Katie Fox displayed the complaint flowchart and discussed the complaint process.
Agenda Item	New Complaints
Notes	<p>a. W.K. The Committee discussed the complaint from W.K. This case has been resolved while this complaint has been pending. Stephen Stocks provided background information. The victim's family was opposed to the plea offer. The family was able to attend the entry of plea hearing and objected to the plea offer. The judge was understanding, but did accept the plea offer over the objections. The family was also able to attend the Sentencing Hearing and give their input and objections to the sentence.</p> <p>Motion: Andrea Noyes made a motion to close the complaint with no violation found. Shelley Wright seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously. None were opposed.</p> <p>Action Items: Andrea Noyes will prepare a letter to the complainant closing the complaint. Katie Fox will send the letter and offer resources. Andrea Noyes will also prepare a letter to the subject of the complaint making them aware of the complaint but letting them know that no violation was found.</p> <p>b, LG The Committee discussed the complaint from L.G. Stephen Stocks recused himself from voting on this complaint. Vanessa Justesen commented that if the victim was not notified of hearings or what is going on, this could be a violation. It is difficult for victims to be waiting for a phone call and not knowing what is going on. The Committee discussed the process and is wanting additional information to make a determination if this is a victim rights violation.</p> <p>Motion: Vanessa Justesen made a motion to invite the victim and subject to give additional information at the next hearing to assist the Committee in determining if there is a victim rights violation. Andrea Noyes seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously. None were opposed. Stephen Stocks abstained from voting.</p> <p>Action Item: Andrea Noyes will prepare letters to the victim and the subjects requesting additional information. Katie Fox will send the letters and invite the victim and the subject to the next meeting.</p>

c. **A.D.**

The Committee discussed the complaint from A.D. Stephen Stocks is the subject of the complaint and he recused himself from the discussion. Stephen Stocks did let the committee know that the case is heading towards a resolution and the No Contact Order has since been modified. Vanessa Justesen does not think there is a violation as a prosecutor has the ability to put and keep pretrial protective orders in place for the safety of the community. Stephen Stocks urged the Committee to review her statements about how she was treated and move forward to give her an opportunity to be heard. Shelley Wright points out that the victim may be having a trauma response and not heard what Stephen was saying. Shelley thinks it would be helpful to have her explain what she was hearing. Keri Jensen asked a question about the process. Andrea Noyes clarified that we are not finding a violation at this point, but just looking for additional insight and information.

Motion: Tyson Huntington made a motion that we move forward with the complaint and invite the victim and subject to the next meeting. Keri Jensen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, None were opposed. Stephen Stocks abstained from voting.

Action Items: Andrea Noyes will prepare letters for the victim and the subject requesting additional information. Katie Fox will send the letters and invite the victim and the subject to the next meeting.

d. **J.M.**

The Committee discussed the complaint from J.M. Keri Jense is abstaining from voting on this complaint. Keri Jensen told the Committee that she has been in contact with this victim's daughter. There were difficulties for this victim to remain in contact with the family members who had retained counsel for this case. Vanessa Justesen pointed out that it can be difficult in homicide cases because victims want answers that law enforcement and prosecutors can not always give. Vanessa Justesen said that it is common practice to ask for a family representative to be appointed in homicide cases. Stephen Stocks pointed out that it is always good to have a clear understanding of who the supervisor of the victim advocate may be. The Committee suggested language that may be helpful to have in a letter explaining the Committee's decision.

Motion. Shelley Wright made a motion to find that there is not a violation but to provide the additional language in the letter to the victim. Stephen Stocks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. None were opposed. Keri Jensen abstained from voting.

Action Items: Andrea Noyes will prepare a letter to the victim and include the suggested language of thanking the victim for submitting the complaint and lettering them know that while the complaint may not be a victim rights violation, it will be brought to the attention of the agency involved and will be utilized to improve the criminal justice process for all victims. Andrea Noyes will also prepare a letter for the subject of the complaint encouraging best practices when dealing with victims who are struggling. Katie Fox will send the letters to the victim and the subject. Katie Fox will offer services to the victim.

e. **M.L.B.**

The Committee discussed the complaint from M.L.B. The subject of the complaint is no longer employed at the agency involved. The Committee discussed the process they should follow in this situation. It was determined they would not want to call the subject into a meeting.

Motion: Andrea Noyes made a motion to sustain this complaint and find that there was a violation of victim rights. Stephen Stocks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. None were opposed.

Action Items: Andrea Noyes will prepare a letter for the victim sustaining her complaint and letting her know we will reach out to the agency even though the subject is no longer

	employed with them. Andrea Noyes will also prepare a letter for the agency who employed the subject of the complaint letting them know of the violation. Katie Fox will send the letters to the victim and the agency who employed the subject. Katie Fox will offer resources to the victim.
Agenda Item	Future Meetings
Notes	<p>The committee discussed meeting quarterly. The committee determined that having a standing quarterly meeting would work best for them, but they are willing to meet more frequently if they receive a complaint that needs to be reviewed.</p> <p>Action Item: Katie Fox will send out a doodle poll to determine when the best date to meet next month is for the committee. The committee has two complaints to review at that meeting.</p>
Agenda Item	Other Business
Notes	None
Agenda Item	Public Comment
	No public comment was received during the meeting.
Agenda Item	Adjourn
Notes	<p>Andrea Noyes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tyson Huntington seconded the motion. The meeting is adjourned.</p> <p>Next Meeting: TBD Zoom link: https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/88465832581?pwd=9SmmlLb78DAxUPdnD6PxK4GCSQZcU7.1</p>