

DRAFT FIFTH DISTRICT VICTIM RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING DECEMBER 11, 2025-PENDING APPROVAL

Committee	Fifth District Victims' Rights Committee Meeting
Date Time Location	December 11, 2025 11:30-1:00 pm Iron County Attorney's Office 82 N 100 East STE 201 Cedar City, UT 84720 Virtual: https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/83088568596?pwd=aO1yjnMnOuMVqCFwBajj2xsUuyxuuz.1
Members Present	<u>In Person Attendance:</u> Chad Dotson, Jessica Cramer, Amy Robison <u>Virtual Attendance:</u> Thad Seegmiller, Chief Kyle Whitehead, Sheriff Cody Black, Von Christiansen
Staff & Visitors	<u>Staff:</u> Katie Fox <u>Visitors:</u> Southwest Forensic Nursing representative
Agenda Item	Welcome & Introductions/Establish Quorum and Approval of Minutes - Chad Dotson
Notes	<p>Chad Dotson welcomed the committee and established that a quorum was present. Chad Dotson asked if the committee had been able to review the minutes from the November 6, 2025 meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Von Christiansen makes a motion to approve the November 6, 2025 meeting minutes. Chief Whitehead seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously, None were opposed.</p>
Agenda Item	Complaints
Notes	<p>a. A.B.</p> <p>The Committee discussed A.B.'s complaint that was received on November 5, 2025. A.B. was an inmate at the Washington County jail, also known as the Purgatory Correctional Facility. The complainant stated they "experienced neglect and physical and psychological abuse" at the facility. A.B. attempted to obtain surveillance footage through a request and was denied access. They also mentioned the possibility of an ACLU lawsuit.</p> <p>The primary focus of the committee's deliberation was whether the complaint fell within its purview. The central question was whether the complainant qualified as a "victim of a crime" for the purposes of a committee review. Committee members noted the absence of any indication that a formal criminal investigation was underway. The consensus was that the committee could not review the complaint at this time due to a lack of a criminal investigation. The members pointed out that if a criminal investigation was instigated the committee could have jurisdiction to hear the complaint. But at this point, there isn't anything for the committee to review.</p> <p>Motion: Sheriff Black made a motion to find that the complaint does not fall under the committee's jurisdiction at this time. Von Christiansen seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously, None were opposed.</p> <p>Action Item: Chad Dotson will prepare a letter to A.B. to inform them of the committee's decision. The letter will explain that there is a different channel for their complaint and clarify that the matter could potentially fall under the committee's purview in the future if it were formally investigated and subsequently declined for prosecution. Katie Fox will send the letter and offer resources.</p>
Agenda Item	Other Business
Notes	Chad Dotson initiated a discussion regarding a follow-up letter to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) stemming from a previous complaint. The prior case highlighted concerns about court security and the physical proximity between victims and defendants in courthouse facilities. The Washington County facility was cited for its "unique layout," which lacks a separate, secure waiting area for victims, forcing them to wait in hallways near defendants, defendants' families, and the media. While the committee did not find a specific violation in the earlier case, it recognized the

	<p>situation as a potential ongoing issue. The committee discussed the content and purpose of the letter to be sent to the AOC. The communication will be information only to put the issue on the AOC's radar and document the committee's concerns.</p> <p>The letter to the AOC will convey the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of Issue: Formally informing the AOC of the recurring logistical challenges victims face due to the physical layout of certain court facilities. • Statutory Reminder: Citing the specific language in the victim rights statute that guarantees a victim's right to separation from the defendant and their family. • Architectural Challenges: Highlighting how the architectural design of many existing facilities can make compliance with the statute difficult, if not impossible, for court staff to achieve.
Agenda Item	Adjourn
Notes	<p>The meeting is adjourned.</p> <p>Next Meeting: TBD</p> <p>Zoom link: https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/83088568596?pwd=aO1yjnMn0uMVqCFwBajj2xsUuyxuuz.1 </p>