

APPROVED FOURTH DISTRICT VICTIMS' RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING JANUARY 5, 2026

Committee	Fourth District Victims' Rights Committee Meeting
Date Time Location	January 5, 2026 1:00-2:00 pm Virtual: https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/88233404467?pwd=QMgjbxmAOOrHyyWB3WWObLBdONjPb2d.1
Members Present	<u>Virtual Attendance</u> : Sandi Johnson, Kevin Thurman, Lesli Shields, Shaun Bufton, Jacob Romero, Scott Sweat
Staff & Visitors	<u>Staff</u> : Katie Fox <u>Visitors</u> : Chris Buckley, Amy Taylor, Jennifer Reyes-Cario, K Atkinson
Agenda Item	Welcome & Introductions/Establish Quorum
Notes	Sandi Johnson welcomed the Committee. Sandi Johnson established that a quorum was present.
Agenda Item	Approve Minutes from 12.1.2025 Meeting
Notes	Sandi Johnson inquired if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion : Kevin Thurman made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2025 meeting. Lesli Shields seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
Agenda Item	Review of Complaints
Notes	<p>1. M.B. Complaint</p> <p>The Committee discussed M.B.'s complaint. M.B. reported a sexual assault to the Orem City Police Department between 2018 and 2019. M.B. alleges that a person they met with—either a victim advocate or a female detective—told M.B. they "needed to move on" and "needed to drop the case." The reason given was that when the offender was interviewed, they stated they had "already talked to the bishop." M.B. stated in their complaint, "I wish I didn't let her bully me into that decision."</p> <p>The committee initially discussed the lack of specific details, such as the name of the official, an exact date, or a case number. Some members felt there were insufficient facts to establish a prima facie case. A counterargument was made that the specific alleged statements—being told to drop the case for religious reasons and the victim's feeling of being bullied were sufficient facts to support a potential violation of the right to be treated with fairness, respect, and dignity. The committee agreed that bringing religion into official decisions was inappropriate. It was clarified that the complaint was not about a failure to investigate but about the nature of the interaction and the alleged pressure to drop the case.</p> <p>Motions: Sandi Johnson made a motion to find that there was a potential violation of victims' rights by the Orem Police Department. Kevin Thurman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Action Items: Sandi Johnson will draft letters to M.B. and the Orem Police Department requesting additional information. Katie Fox will send the letters and coordinate their attendance at the next meeting.</p> <p>2. K.J. Complaint</p> <p>The Committee discussed K.J.'s complaint. The complainant's domestic violence case was transferred from the Lehi City Attorney's Office to the District Court. K.J. alleges they were not clearly notified of a hearing where the case was to be resolved. They were not informed that they could provide input into the resolution. The committee noted that the case resolution was listed as a diversion, a disposition specifically prohibited for domestic violence cases. However, this is not a violation of a victims' rights statute.</p>

Motion: Sandi Johnson made a motion to find that there was a potential violation of victims' rights by the Lehi City Attorney's Office. Scott Sweat seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items: Sandi Johnson will draft letters to K.J. and the Lehi City Attorney's Office requesting additional information. Katie Fox will send the letters and coordinate their attendance at the next meeting.

3. K.L. Complaint

The Committee discussed K.L.'s complaint. K.L. reported a sexual assault to the Utah County Sheriff's Office in October 2023. The complainant was told the case had been forwarded to the Utah County Attorney's Office for review. Despite follow-ups from both the victim and a victim advocate, they have only been told the case is "pending," with no clear status or timeline for a decision. A committee member noted that two years have passed since the initial report.

The committee determined that since the Sheriff's Office had forwarded the case to the prosecutor, the focus of the complaint was on the Utah County Attorney's Office. The primary issue identified was the significant delay. A member noted that for a defendant's speedy trial rights, a delay of over one year is presumptively a violation; therefore, a two-year delay for a victim's right to a "speedy disposition of the entire criminal justice process" represents a prima facie violation. The committee identified potential rights violations by the prosecution: The right to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect, the right to receive reasonable and meaningful communication, the right to a speedy disposition of the case.

Motion: Scott Sweat made a motion to find that there was a potential violation of victims' rights by the Utah County Attorney's Office. Scott Sweat also motioned to find that there is no violation of victims' rights by the Utah County Sheriff's Office. Sandi Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items: Sandi Johnson will draft letters to K.L. and the Utah County Attorney's Office requesting additional information. Katie Fox will send the letters and coordinate their attendance at the next meeting.

4. C.B. Complaint

The Committee discussed C.B.'s complaint. This complaint involves the same suspect as K.L.'s complaint. C.B. reported an offense to the Lindon Police Department and was told the case was forwarded to the prosecutor. C.B. has received no information from the prosecutor's office on the status of the case. C.B. was told by a detective that DNA returned a positive match but was not informed if the profile was entered into CODIS. C.B. alleges a failure to receive meaningful guidance on available protections and was unable to contact victim services. A significant safety concern arose when C.B. was contacted by a law enforcement officer from another state who was a personal friend of the suspect; C.B.'s report of this to a sergeant received no response. C.B. also alleged her statement was not accurately reflected in a police report.

This case was identified as being very similar to K.L.'s, particularly regarding the lack of communication and delay from the Utah County Attorney's Office. There is confusion over which law enforcement agency held primary responsibility, as detectives from both Lindon PD and the Utah County Sheriff's Office were named.

Motion: Kevin Thurman made a motion to find that there was a potential violation of victims' rights. Kevin motioned that the committee move forward with the first five allegations in C.B.'s complaint. Kevin further motioned that there is no violation of the sixth allegation as it is not

	<p>a victim's statutory right. Shaun Bufton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Action Items: Katie Fox will reach out to C.B. to get information about which law enforcement agency was their main point of contact. Sandi Johnson will draft letters to C.B. ,the Utah County Attorney's Office, and the responsible law enforcement agency to request additional information. Katie Fox will send the letters and coordinate their attendance at the next meeting.</p> <p>5. B.T. Complaint</p> <p>The Committee discussed B.T's complaint. B.T.is a victim of stalking, threats of violence, and harassment. The complaint expressed fear for their safety upon the suspect's release. The complaint form did not list any specific victim rights that were violated. Katie Fox had already reached out to the victim with the contact information for the victim advocate and provided a copy of the bail order, which required GPS monitoring for release. The committee interpreted the complaint not as an allegation of a rights violation, but as a plea for help and information. At the time the complaint was filed (December 22nd), the suspect was still in custody and was not released until December 30th. Therefore, there had been no failure to notify of release or any other procedural lapse. Kevin Thurman expressed a concern that there may have been a lack of communication from the criminal justice agencies.</p> <p>Motion: Lesli Shields made a motion to find that no violation of victims' rights was alleged. Scott Sweat seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Action Items: Sandi Johnson will draft letters to B.T. informing them of the committee's decision. Katie Fox will send the letter and offer resources to B.T.</p>
Agenda Item	Public Comment
	No public comment given during the meeting.
Agenda Item	Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn
Notes	<p>Sandi Johnson made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The committee adjourned.</p> <p>Next Meeting: February 2, 2026, 1:00 pm- 2:00 pm</p> <p>Zoom link: https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/88233404467?pwd=QMqJbXmAOrHyyWB3WWObLBdONJPb2d.1 </p>