

APPROVED THIRD DISTRICT VICTIMS' RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING January 14, 2026

Committee	Third District Victims' Rights Committee Meeting
Date Time Location	January 14, 2026 12:00-2:00 pm 350 E 500 S # 200 Salt Lake City, UT 84111; ZOOM Link: https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/86287710268?pwd=UPkUJ2oalx3E8Ky0qKOBICdkq8bp38.1
Members Present	<u>Virtual Attendance</u> : Chief Rich Ferguson, Wendy Isom <u>In-Person Attendance</u> : Rachel Miller, Brandon Simmons, Vickie Walker, Doug Fawson,
Staff & Visitors	<u>Staff</u> : Katie Fox <u>Visitors</u> : Stephanie Ames
Agenda Item	Welcome & Introductions/Establish Quorum - Rachel Miller
Notes	Rachel Miller welcomed everyone to the January District Victims' Rights Committee meeting. A quorum was established. Motion : Brandon Simmons makes a motion to approve the November 12, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Rachel Miller seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously, None were opposed.
Agenda Item	New Complaints
Notes	<p>A. T.T. The Committee discussed T.T.'s complaint. T.T. is a victim of stalking in two separate cases with different defendants. T.T. 's complaint focuses on the second, more recent case, citing insufficient follow-up, a lack of transparency from the prosecutor, and a diversion agreement being entered over the objection of T.T. T.T. was invited to attend the meeting, but was not present. Stephanie Ames, the prosecutor from the Salt Lake District Attorney's Office, was present and addressed the committee. Ms. Ames explained to the committee that she pursued a diversion because of the age of the complaint, evidentiary challenges in proving the case to a jury, and the defendant's lack of criminal history. The primary goal was ensuring future protection for the victim. Ms. Ames noted that while the victim felt dismissed during a phone call two days before an initial appearance, the prosecutor had not yet officially received or reviewed the case at that time. In a subsequent meeting, Ms. Ames intentionally allowed the victim to lead the discussion to ensure she felt heard; however, this was interpreted by the victim as the prosecutor being "unprepared." The committee discussed that victims often mistake the prosecutor for their personal attorney; however, the prosecutor represents the State. Under Utah law, victims do not have an absolute right to be heard in "important criminal justice hearings" for misdemeanors, unlike in felony cases. Rule 35 requires victims to be informed of plea bargains if they express interest. The committee found the victim was informed of the plea offer before it was finalized. While it is a "best practice" to involve supervisors when a victim opposes an offer, the failure to do so does not constitute a rights violation.</p> <p>Motion: Doug Fawson made a motion to find that a victim's rights violation had not been alleged. Vickie Walker seconds the motion. Brandon Simmons abstained from voting. The motion passes. None were opposed.</p> <p>Action Items: Rachel Miller will draft a letter to T.T. informing them of the committee's determination. Katie Fox will send the letter and offer resources to T.T.</p> <p>B. K.S. The Committee discussed K.S.'s complaint. K.S. is the victim of stalking and sexual assault. The victim requested that the cases be reopened and sought a formal apology, claiming that "lawyers and law enforcement were very rude." The complaint listed a wide array of agencies, including Murray Police, Legal Aid, and the Rape Recovery Center. The committee noted</p>

	<p>several issues with the current complaint. The complaint does not specify which rights were violated or provide details on the alleged misconduct of the various agencies listed. The committee cannot force a prosecutor to refile a case that was declined due to evidentiary or jurisdictional reasons. While the victim was interviewed by detectives, it is unclear if the prosecutor’s office communicated the reasons for the declination directly to her.</p> <p>Motion: Rachel Miller made a motion to hold the case until the February meeting to gather more information from the Murray Police Department victim advocate and the victim.. Brandon Simmons seconds the motion. The motion passes. None were opposed.</p> <p>Action Items: Rachel Miller will reach out to the Murray Police Department Victim Advocate and the victim to get additional information and a clear description of the alleged violations.</p>
Agenda Item	Other Business
Notes	The Committee discussed new members. Rachel will reach out to a couple of city attorneys to see if they are able to attend now that we are meeting on Wednesdays. Katie Fox will discuss the need with Carl Hollan from SWAPP.
Agenda Item	Public Comment
	No public comment was given during the meeting.
Agenda Item	Adjourn
Notes	<p>Motion: Doug Fawson made a motion to adjourn. Vickie Walker seconded the motion. The committee was adjourned.</p> <p>Next Meeting: February 11, 2026 12:00-2:00 pm</p> <p>Zoom link: https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/86287710268?pwd=UPkUJ2oalx3E8Ky0qKOBICdkq8bp38.1</p>