

APPROVED FOURTH DISTRICT VICTIMS' RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 2, 2026

Committee	Fourth District Victims' Rights Committee Meeting
Date Time Location	March 2, 2026 1:00-2:45 pm Virtual: https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/88233404467?pwd=QMqJbxmAOrHyyWB3WWObLBdONJPb2d.1
Members Present	<u>Virtual Attendance</u> : Sandi Johnson, Scott Sweat, Amy Taylor, Tom Jindra, Sheriff Mike Smith, Kevin Thurman
Staff & Visitors	<u>Staff</u> : Katie Fox <u>Visitors</u> : Elyse Hines, Chris Buckley, Christine Scott, Christopher Ballard, Det. Hutchings, Det. Clegg, Jennifer Reyes-Cario, K.L., C.B., Zoom User, User, Lauren Davis
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 February 2, 2026 Meeting
Notes	Sandi Johnson inquired if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion : Tom Jindra made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2026 meeting. Scott Sweat seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
Agenda Item	Review of Complaints
Notes	<p>1. K.L. Complaint The Committee discussed K.L.'s complaint. The Utah County Attorney's Office was the only subject the Committee was reviewing. Several staff members from the Utah County Attorney's Office (UCAO) were present. K.L. was not present during the discussion of the complaint, but did join the meeting later. The committee reviewed four alleged violations: the right to be treated with fairness and respect, the right to be informed of one's role in the process, the right to receive clear legal explanations, and the right to a speedy disposition. The UCAO addressed a timeline where they received the case in July 2024, but a resolution did not occur until January 2026. This delay was exacerbated by the discovery of concurrent civil litigation filings in January 2025. The UCAO reported that the emergence of hundreds of gigabytes of data—including depositions and recordings—required an exhaustive review to identify exculpatory or dispositive evidence. Furthermore, UCAO noted that the victim's attorney complicated the investigation. The Committee noted that the UCAO did respond to the questions asked by K.L. about the status of the case and other questions they had.</p> <p>The Committee inquired about the involvement of the Attorney General's Office (AG). While the AG's office was initially involved, because of other issues, they did not remain on the case.</p> <p>Motion: Scott Sweat made a motion to find that there was no violation of victims' rights by the Utah County Attorney's Office. Kevin Thurman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Action Items: Sandi Johnson will draft formal letters to K.L. and the Utah County Attorney's Office informing them of the committee's decisions. Sandi will include the recommendation of the committee that the UCAO consider looking into how to better coordinate when cases involve multiple jurisdictions. Katie Fox will send the letters.</p> <p>2. C.B. Complaint The Committee discussed C.B.'s complaint. Representatives from the UCAO, the Utah County Sheriff's Office (UCSO), and Lindon City Police Department (Lindon PD) were present. C.B. joined the meeting as well. The Committee reviewed the right to be informed if a DNA match</p>

was identified and entered into CODIS. This victims' right is the duty of the police agency and cannot be deferred to the UCAO. The Committee found that C.B. was notified of the information required by the statutes by the UCSO and Lindon PD. The Committee also reviewed the victims' right to be informed of the level of protection available to them from intimidation and harm. C.B. has a Sexual Violence PO. The Committee discussed what information could or should have been communicated to C.B. regarding the level of protection. Although an August 29th incident at a high school was a specific incident discussed regarding this victim right, the Committee looked at the case as a whole. The Committee also addressed the victims' right to a speedy disposition and to be informed. The UCSO reported that they responded to communications, even when staff were in training or out of town. The discussion centered on the definition of timely response.

Motion: Sandi Johnson made a motion to find that there was no violation of victims' rights related to obligations regarding DNA testing. Tom Jindra seconded the motion. Sheriff Smith abstained from the vote. Kevin Thurman made a motion to find a violation of C.B.'s right to be informed. No second of that motion was made. That motion failed. Tom Jindra made a motion to find that no violation of C.B.'s right to be informed as to the level of protection from threats and harm available. Kevin Thurman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sheriff Smith abstained from the vote. Sandi Johnson made a motion to find that no violation of C.B.'s right to be informed and assisted be found. Tom Jindra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items: Sandi Johnson will draft formal letters to C.B., the Lindon City Police Department, the Utah County Sheriff's Office and the Utah County Attorney's Office informing them of the committee's decisions. Katie Fox will send the letters.

3. H.P Complaint

The Committee discussed H.P.'s complaint. H.P. was present and Christopher Ballard from the UCAO was also present. H.P.'s right to timely notice of cancellation of the Jury Trial and to be heard at an important criminal justice hearing were discussed. The Committee previously reviewed a summary of the audio of the October 14, 2025 hearing where the trial was canceled and no new date was scheduled. Although H.P. had been emailed the date of the court hearing, H.P. was absent because the prosecution had specifically instructed H.P. not to attend or listen to the online hearing to avoid potential exclusionary rule issues. The prosecutor failed to request a pause or notify the court of the victim's absence when the judge discussed whether to vacate the trial dates. This represents a failure of the prosecutor's affirmative obligation to notify the victim in order to ensure the victim's right to be heard. When H.P. was notified about what happened, the communication did not clearly state that the trial had been cancelled, and H.P.'s confusion was exacerbated by the use of legal shorthand. H.P. interpreted the term "continued" to mean a delay of a few days. However, the trial was canceled entirely, a fact that was not clearly communicated to H.P. until January.

Motion: Kevin Thurman motioned to find a violation of H.P.'s rights to timely notice of judicial proceedings and the right to clear explanations. Kevin Thurman further motioned to find no violation for speedy disposition of the criminal justice process. Tom Jindra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items: Sandi Johnson will draft letters to H.P. and the Utah County Attorney's Office informing them of the committee's decisions. Katie Fox will send the letters and offer resources to H.P. Sandi Johnson will also draft a letter to be sent to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) regarding the judge's role. The judge has a statutory responsibility to consider the victim before granting continuances and the victim has a right to be heard.

4. A.S. Complaint

	<p>The Committee discussed A.S.'s complaint. A.S.'s complaint focuses on the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and the Utah Office for Victims of Crime (UOVC). As these are social service and administrative entities, they do not fall under the committee's jurisdiction over criminal justice actors.</p> <p>Motion: Sandi Johnson made a motion to close the complaint because it is outside the Committee's jurisdiction. Scott Sweat seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Action Items: Sandi Johnson will draft a letter to A.S. informing them of the committee's decision. Katie Fox will send the letter and offer resources to A.S. Katie Fox has already forwarded the complaint to UOVC.</p> <p>5. K.A. Complaint</p> <p>The Committee discussed K.A.'s complaint. In K.A.'s case, first-degree felony charges (including aggravated burglary and robbery) were filed on January 8th, yet by February 3rd, the defendant had pleaded to misdemeanors and was placed on probation. K.A. alleges they were never notified of the plea negotiations, the hearing, or the sentencing.</p> <p>Motion: Sandi Johnson made a motion to find the complaint alleged a violation of the victim's right to be notified of important criminal justice hearings and the right to be heard by the Court at sentencing. Scott Sweat seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Action Items: Sandi Johnson will prepare letters to the Utah County Attorney's Office and K.A. inviting them to the next meeting. Sandi Johnson will request information from the Utah County Attorney's Office about their communications and notifications to K.A. Katie Fox will send the letters and coordinate their attendance.</p>
Agenda Item	Public Comment
	Public Comment was given during the discussion of the complaints.
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: April 6, 2026, 1:00 pm- 2:00 pm Zoom link: https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/88233404467?pwd=QMqJbXmAOrHyyWB3WWObLBdONjPb2d.1</p>