

***Utah Victim
Services Commission***

2025

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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Meet The Team



**Marlesse
Jones**
DIRECTOR

33 years of direct victim services, prosecution, and trauma-informed training for police and prosecutors.



**Rachelle
Hill**
ASSISTANT

21 years of direct system based victim services , grants, and training for victim advocates.



**Katie
Fox**
**VICTIMS' RIGHTS
COORDINATOR**

17 years of experience in victim services, program development and grant management.

A Message from the Victim Services Commission Leadership



Chair
ALISSA BLACK
Crime Victim
Advocate, Murray City
Police Department.
She brings 23 years of
experience in working
with victims of crime.



Vice-Chair
TRACEY TABET
Director and Program
Administrator of the 22
CJCs serving 28 counties
in Utah. She brings 33
years of experience in
supporting victims of
crime....

As the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Victim Services Commission, we have been honored to help lead this new organization. Now completing its second year of operation, the Commission has worked tirelessly on its mission to reduce the impact of crime on victims through a comprehensive and evidence-based prevention, treatment, and trauma-informed justice strategy. This year has been one of continued growth and evolution, and our successes were only made possible by the many dedicated members who bring unique experience and insight to the table. We are pleased to share some of those accomplishments in this report.

Our primary focus may be on victims of crime, but the impact of crime extends far beyond the individual. It deeply affects our families, neighborhoods, and communities, and for these reasons, we are grateful for a forum like the Victim Services Commission. As our time in leadership comes to an end, we want to thank the membership for the trust they've placed in us these past two years. We offer our full support to the incoming leadership team, knowing the Commission will be in excellent hands. We also want to thank the Commission staff for all they do to help us fulfill our purpose.

Finally, to our legislators: thank you for recognizing the voices of victims and including their perspectives in the important decisions you make. Together, we hope to continue to advocate for systems that protect their rights, hold offenders accountable, and offer comprehensive and compassionate care to those on the path to justice and healing.

About the Commission

The Victim Services Commission (VSC), statutorily established in 2023, is a division of the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice. It is staffed by Director Marlesse Jones, with Assistant Rachelle Hill and Victim Rights Coordinator Katie Fox. Collectively, this team brings decades of experience in providing direct victim services, program development, legislative support, and educational training.

The 2024-2025 reporting year encompasses the second year of the VSC's evolution. Great effort has gone into continuing to shore up a solid foundation through stakeholder input and support. In addition, the VSC has experienced growth through legislative changes and membership efforts. This growth is improving response to the rights and needs of crime victims and is critical to the well-being and safety of communities. With a good foundation in place, growth occurring, great things are happening.

Commission membership includes: CCJJ Executive Director, UDC Executive Director, UCASA Executive Director, RAW Executive Director, UDVC Executive Director, CJC Program Director, Director of Division of Multicultural Affairs, UOVC Director, DPS Commissioner, System-Based Advocate Representative, Prosecutor Representative, Defense Attorney Representative, Law Enforcement Representative, and Legislator Representative. (63M-7-902)

This Commission membership differs from membership at its creation in 2023. Member seats, including a Victim/Survivor Representative, DHHS Executive Director, CJC Standing Committee Chair, and another Legislator Representative, were statutorily removed from the body effective January 1, 2025. Their voices were valued and continue to be missed.



VSC Mission Statement

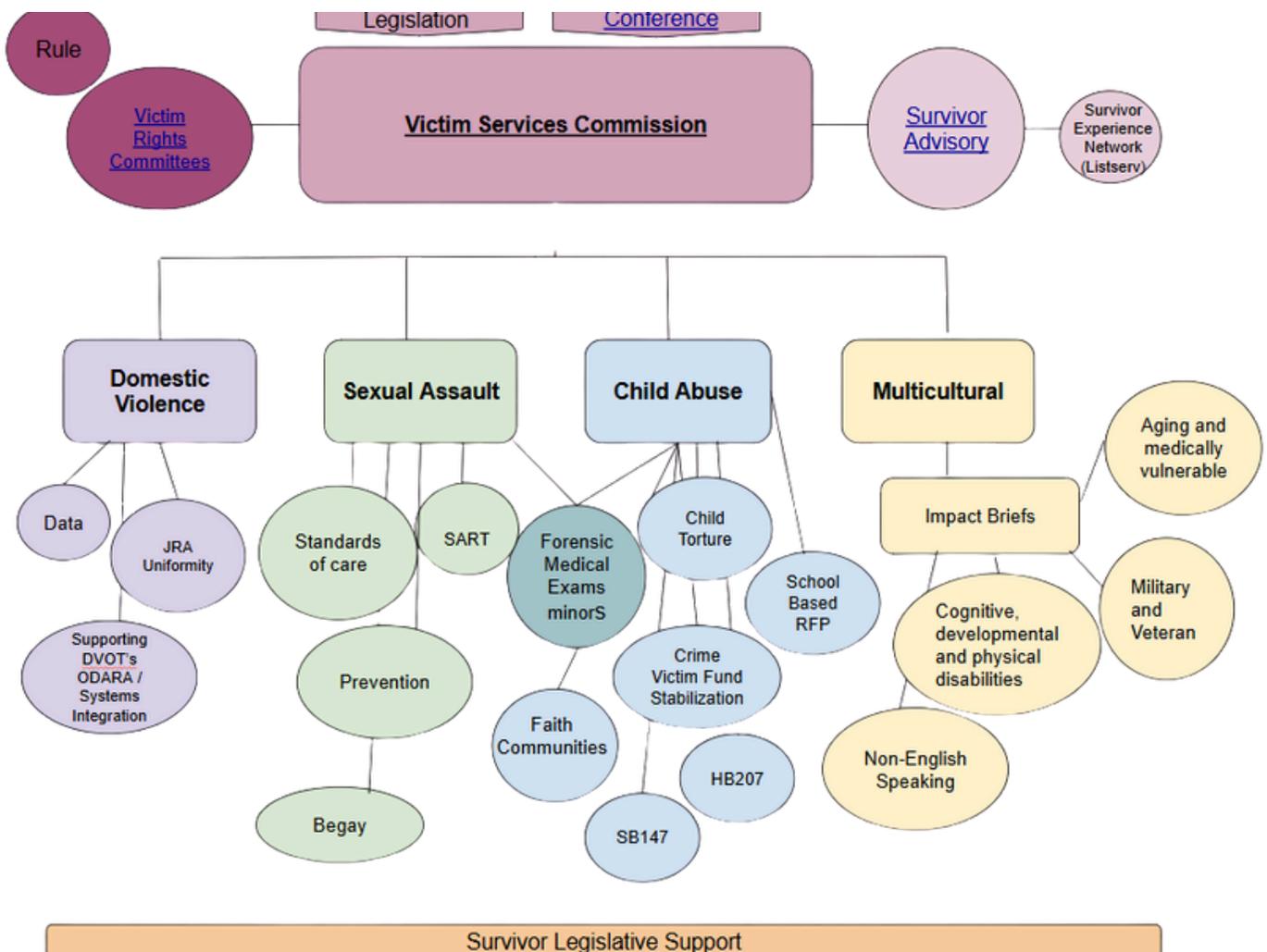
The mission of the Utah Victim Services Commission is to generate unity to reduce and eliminate the impact of crime on victims through a comprehensive and evidence-based prevention, treatment, and trauma-informed justice strategy.

VSC Structure

Since its establishment in 2023, the Victim Services Commission (VSC) has seen its scope dramatically expand. Initially formed with four statutory subcommittees, the VSC's responsibilities were broadened by legislative action to include oversight of the eight Judicial District Victim Rights Committees statewide and a crucial mandate to educate on victim rights.

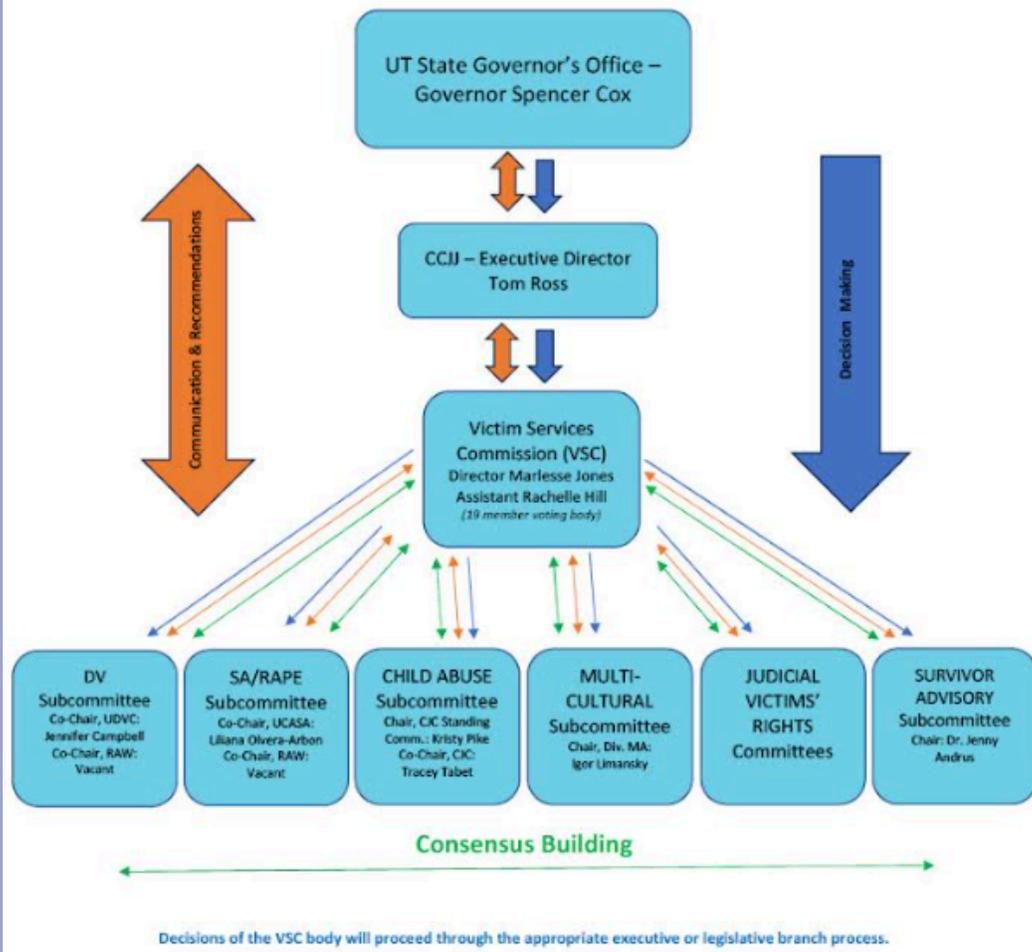
The VSC also inherited a statewide conference from the repealed Crime Victims Council (2024 legislative session), which it maintains to fulfill the educational mandate. The VSC voted to continue this important tradition, hosting the 37th Annual Crime Victims Conference in 2025.

As a result of this rapid growth, the VSC's operational structure now includes five subcommittees, the Victim Rights Committees, and numerous issue-specific workgroups, in addition to its ongoing duty of making legislative recommendations. As the following details illustrate, the VSC's subcommittees are actively engaged in critical work addressing both specific crime categories and the needs of victims statewide. More details on the work accomplished by the VSC and its subcommittees are outlined in the following pages of this report.



Victim Services Commission (VSC) Organizational Chart

Statutory Creation 2023 Legislative Session – UCA 63M-7-901 to 905



1

VSC Commission Body and Director/Team

The VSC is responsible for advising, informing, and supporting the Commission body and legislators. We are committed to the success of the Commission and supporting legislators improving the response to victims of crime in Utah.

3

Subcommittees and Workgroups

The Chairs lead subcommittees and workgroups through exploring, problem-solving, proposing, and making recommendations to the VSC body.

VSC Roles



2

VSC Commission Members

The VSC members' role is to inform, consider, propose, and advocate for solutions and improvements in elevating response to victims of crime.

4

Public and Agency Attendees

Through attendance and public comment other members of allied agencies or the public may have the opportunity to participate in informing, inspiring, proposing, and advocating for positive change when acknowledged by the Chair.

Victim Services Commission

63M-7-904 Duties of the
Commission

Trauma Informed Services

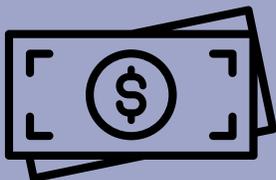
Encourage, facilitate,
and coordinate

Review and Assess the Duties and Practices of CCJJ

Ensure that crime victims
are a vital part of the
criminal justice system
AND the rights of crime
victims and witnesses are
honored and protected by
law.

Build Partnerships

- Assess needs for crime victim services
- Develop services and resources
- Coordinate services and resources



Funding

Collect information on
statewide funding for crime
victim services and
prevention efforts.

Subcommittees

Generate unity for ongoing efforts to
reduce and eliminate the impact of crime
on victims. Recommend and support the
creation, dissemination, and
implementation of statewide policies to
address crime.

Make Recommendations to the Legislature, the Governor, and the Judicial Council on the following:



**Victim
Restitution**

Role of victims of crime in the criminal justice system.



**Enhancing rights of victims of crime
AND
enhancing services to victims of crime.**

Enforcing existing rights of victims of crime.

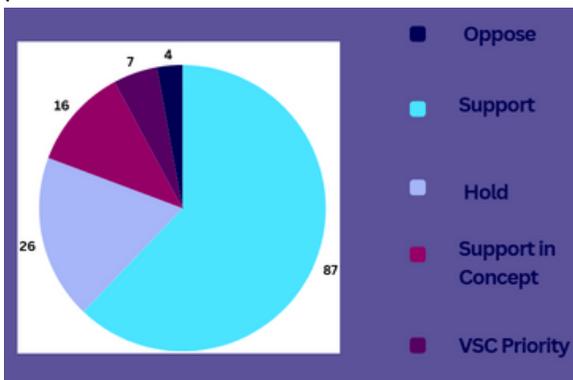
Educating and training criminal justice professionals on the rights of victims of crime.



2025 COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

In the reporting period of October 2024 through September 2025, the VSC has continued to elevate victim services throughout the state as follows:

Legislative Involvement: During the 2025 legislative session, the VSC held weekly legislative review meetings where proposed legislation impacting victims of crime was discussed and positions taken. Each meeting proceeded by establishing a quorum and engaging in a robust discussion of victim needs. The VSC is statutorily tasked with the responsibility to advocate for the adoption, repeal, or modification of laws or proposed legislation in the interest of victims of crime. In the 2025 session, the VSC reviewed 373 bills and took positions of Support (16), Priority (7), Hold (26), Support in Concept (16), and No Position [2]. Of the 373 reviewed, 231 were determined to be beyond scope, and no position was taken.



Communication Networking: A significant effort continues to be made to meet and build relationships with legislators. We hope to become a great resource for information and constructive support of legislation that impacts victims. While our focuses may not always align, we look forward to meaningful conversations with Legislators where increased understanding of important perspectives and processes can occur.

Annual Meeting: The VSC held a full-day meeting, which included nominations for new leadership beginning January 1, 2026, subcommittee reports, VSC Assessment Study Report, discussion of victim needs and legislative priority issues, and presentations on Trauma Informed Window of Tolerance, Predominant Aggressor Misidentification, and Sex Offender Treatment at UDC. The attendance and engagement in discussions were thought-provoking and beneficial to the work of the VSC. Additionally, being able to meet for such an extended period of time provided an opportunity to network and build stronger relationships with the VSC members.

Victim Services Assessment Study: The study has reached its halfway point with outcomes and deliverables expected in all areas by the end of the next reporting period. The research team has conducted member interviews, listening sessions across the state on victim service needs, and held meetings focused on the economic goals of victim service programs. The Literature Review is complete and was presented at the Annual Meeting. Commission member interviews are also complete, with some insights shared, but final reporting has not yet been received. As the study concludes in 2026, greater detail and information will be presented and provided to the legislative body.

Key Research Activities



Subcommittee Reports

There are four statutorily created subcommittees, and as of 2025, one newly created subcommittee consisting of crime victim survivors' voices.



CHILD ABUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

The Child Abuse Subcommittee is chaired by the Chair of the Children's Justice Standing Committee or their designee. Currently, the Chair is Kristy Pike, Washington County Children's Justice Center. Her Co-Chair, by invitation, is Tracey Tabet, Director of Utah Children's Justice Center Programs.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUBCOMMITTEE

The Domestic Violence Subcommittee is co-chaired by the Executive Director of Utah Domestic Violence Coalition, Jennifer Campbell, and the Executive Director of Restoring Ancestral Winds (*vacant*).



RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SUBCOMMITTEE

The Rape and Sexual Assault Subcommittee is co-chaired by the Executive Director of Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Liliana Olvera-Arbon, and the Executive Director of Restoring Ancestral Winds (*vacant*).



MULTICULTURAL SUBCOMMITTEE

"The Multicultural Subcommittee is Chaired by the Director of the Division of Utah Multicultural Affairs, Igor Limansky. His Co-Chairs by invitation are Beatriz Herrera and Kaye Lynn Wootton.



SURVIVOR ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

The Survivor Advisory Subcommittee is Chaired by Dr. Jenny Andrus, University of Utah English Department. Dr. Andrus was the Governor's Appointee as the Survivor Member for the VSC, but that seat was later removed from the statute. She remains engaged in the focus of giving a voice to victims of crime.

CHILD ABUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

The Child Abuse Subcommittee membership follows a multidisciplinary model, with perspectives from law enforcement, prosecution, child protective services, mental health, victim advocacy, lived experience, prevention, community partners, and others. The committee meets every other month.

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, Child Abuse Subcommittee celebrations have included:

- Passage of SB24, creating a first-degree felony for child torture
- Movement towards agreement on best-practice for adolescent forensic medical exams
- Passage of SB147, requiring youth-serving organizations to do background checks
- Garnering support from Utah's congressional delegation (5 of 6 members) for the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act
- Passage of HB207, Sexual Offense Revisions

Looking ahead to the coming year, committee members are actively working with each other and their respective organizations to:

- Organize a child abuse prevention conference for faith leaders
- Train agencies on the new child torture statute
- Support roll-out of school-based prevention efforts
- Complete a statewide protocol for adolescent forensic medical exams

The committee is also watching for opportunities to address additional areas of concern:

- Mental health (for victims and professionals)
- Use of child forensic interviews in civil matters
- Turnover in multidisciplinary teams and their associated agencies, including (but not limited to) CJs, Division of Child and Family Services, law enforcement, and prosecution
- Unstable funding streams (like VOCA)
- Lack of resources for youths with problematic sexual behaviors

The committee looks forward to actively participating in the Victim Services Commission and the upcoming legislative session.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUBCOMMITTEE

The Domestic Violence Subcommittee has met nine times during the reporting period, averaging about once a month. The DV Subcommittee does take some time off during the legislative session.

Jennifer Campbell, the Executive Director of the Utah Domestic Violence Coalition, and the Executive Director of Restoring Ancestral Winds, co-chair the domestic violence subcommittee. This subcommittee is an open format, welcoming a diverse group of attendees, including nonprofits, law enforcement, courts, and others involved in domestic violence issues across the State.

Based on the priority areas we identified, we have been examining many issues related to domestic violence over the past year. We have been reviewing reports that highlight areas for improvement in services for domestic violence victims. These include the MMIR Report, UOVC Needs Assessments, Utah Statewide Needs Assessment: Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, and Human Trafficking – 2022 Report, and Utah Overview Report.

The shared recommendations across these reports emphasize the urgent need for increased financial resources system-wide, culturally competent and trauma-informed services, better interagency communication, and victim empowerment-based advocacy. They also highlight the importance of centralized data collection, long-term support services, and stronger legal protections for marginalized and underserved victims, especially Indigenous populations, as essential steps toward creating a more effective and equitable victim services system.

Data Work Group: This review, as well as legislation that changed the responsibility for specific domestic violence data reporting to the legislature from DPS to CCJJ's Public Safety Data Management Task Force (Utah Code § 36-29-111(8)), led to the formation of the Victim Services Commission, Domestic Violence Subcommittee's Data Group. The group was co-chaired by Jen Campbell, UDVC, and Captain Tanner Jensen from the Utah Department of Public Safety, Statewide Information and Analysis Center (SIAC), and was significantly supported by UDVC Staff. We held monthly meetings to review a wide array of issues with statewide DV data. We produced a report that highlights these issues, statutory requirements on DV data reporting, current availability, and recommendations for closing gaps and overall prevalence recommendations.



RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SUBCOMMITTEE

The Rape and Sexual Assault Subcommittee has improved Utah's response to sexual assault through nine focused meetings. Most recently, the subcommittee restructured from an open forum to a closed multi-disciplinary group to enhance consistency and efficiency in achieving identified goals. As the subcommittee moves forward, it remains committed to survivor-centered policy, system-wide collaboration, and equitable access to care and justice for all Utahns. Efforts for this past year include:

Utah Sexual Assault Response Team (SARTAC): The SA Subcommittee established SARTAC to drive a unified, statewide approach to sexual assault response. Functioning as a cross-sector collaborative body, SARTAC strengthens community safety and survivor-centered practices by: fostering multidisciplinary collaboration, enhancing system accountability, advising on essential training and best practices, and ensuring consistent, trauma-informed responses across all regions of Utah.

Standards of Care: In compliance with a mandate under HB 114 (2024), the SA Subcommittee finalized and implemented new Standards of Care for 13 Rape Crisis Centers. Collaborating with the Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault (UCASA), these standards—adapted from the Texas model—were refined using stakeholder input to ensure a consistent baseline of high-quality, trauma-informed services statewide. Adherence to the standards is now a funding requirement by the Utah Office for Victims of Crime (UOVC), with UCASA and UOVC providing joint oversight and implementation support.

Adolescent Forensic Exam Working Group: The SA Subcommittee partnered with the Child Abuse Subcommittee to launch this group, which is dedicated to strengthening Utah's coordinated response for adolescent sexual assault survivors. This multidisciplinary group, recognizing the unique developmental, legal, and emotional needs of adolescent victims, worked to address differences in approach. Their efforts focused on establishing shared protocols, improving interagency communication, and prioritizing survivor-centered care practices. The ultimate goal was to emphasize an empowerment-based model, ensuring that adolescents are fully supported in making informed decisions about where and how to access forensic medical exams.

Case Law Impact: The SA Subcommittee was presented with a critical legal vulnerability exposed by a Utah appellate court decision. This ruling unjustly negated a victim's ability to pursue prosecution if a third party had previously reported the crime without the victim's knowledge, highlighting a significant gap in the legal protection of a victim's right to report and seek justice. To address this, the Subcommittee convened a specialized workgroup of prosecutors. This group focused on: (1) Developing a proposed statutory fix to close the loophole, (2) Analyzing the implications of other related appellate cases currently on appeal, (3) Discussing potential collateral consequences of the fix, particularly related to the statute of limitations, and (4) Strategizing on definitive next steps. The workgroup is currently tracking the appellate cases under review and will determine the final action needed to fully safeguard victims' rights.

Prevention: Prevention is a cornerstone of Utah's long-term strategy to end sexual violence. The Subcommittee's efforts focus on expanding access to education, training, and outreach across the state, with a priority on underserved communities. We are actively pursuing funding opportunities to bolster critical initiatives, including: (1) Developing statewide prevention education programs tailored for schools, communities, and professional sectors, (2) Providing training for professionals to effectively identify and interrupt risk factors for sexual violence, and (3) Building sustained support for the Utah Statewide Sexual Assault Helpline, a critical resource for survivors seeking immediate, confidential support and information. This strategic focus empowers communities, reduces harm, and advances the critical goal of preventing sexual assault through education, collaboration, and accessible resources.



MULTICULTURAL SUBCOMMITTEE

The Multicultural Subcommittee of the Victim Services Commission has continued its work to strengthen systems that protect Utah's most vulnerable populations while ensuring cultural responsiveness across services.

Guardianships

The subcommittee has coordinated with key stakeholders to address concerns that the current system for appointing guardians lacks adequate safeguards. Guardians are not subject to mandatory background checks, and the application process fails to effectively identify potential abusers. In order to seek solutions for this problem, subcommittee members are working with State partners, provider associations, and the Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS) to find solutions. WINGS has been extremely supportive and has created a working group to evaluate current processes and make recommendations for change.

Protections of Vulnerable Adults in Facilities

The subcommittee is working with numerous regulatory, provider, and community groups to determine how to best balance the need to protect vulnerable adults without infringing on their rights to make choices for themselves. Over the upcoming year, a large stakeholder group has been formed to address issues of consent, sexual relationships in facilities, and the overall needs of vulnerable adults.

Language Access for Victims and Communities

In partnership with community and system-based advocates, the subcommittee conducted two focus groups to assess the current landscape of language access for victims in Utah. Identified challenges encompass concerns about the use of AI for language access, issues with live interpreters (including lack of trauma-informed care, misinterpretation, privacy, and availability), on-scene response concerns (safe reporting and victim-to-officer interactions), and investigation challenges (witness statements and follow-up calls). Key areas for improvement include strengthening on-scene and investigative system responses, enhancing training and resources, expanding advocate involvement, ensuring ongoing victim support, researching national best practices, and implementing a feedback survey. (Reference: [Utah Language Data Report](#))

Other Planned Projects

Stakeholders have identified several additional areas of concern and will continue strategizing to address them:

- Current inability to track unlicensed health care workers
- Inadequate centralized resources specific to the needs of multicultural and vulnerable individuals
- Understaffing in facilities which may lead to negative outcomes

SURVIVOR ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

The Survivor Advisory Subcommittee was established in 2024 and is currently chaired by Dr. Jennifer Andrus. Dr. Andrus was the Governor's Appointee as the Survivor Member for the VSC, but during the 2025 session, the commission was modified, and that seat was removed from the statute.

Not wanting to lose the victim's perspective, in December 2024, the Victim Services Commission (VSC) voted to establish the Victim Survivor Lived Experience Advisory Committee. The committee's creation marks a significant step towards ensuring that the voices of those most impacted by crime are central to the Victims Services Commission. The VSC approved the committee to develop three foundational projects: a listserv, a survey, and a series of interviews.

An advisory committee was formed, consisting of seven members with lived experience from varying crime categories. This composition aligns with the project proposal's aim to include survivors who have experienced a variety of violent crimes. The committee meets for one hour each month.

The initial meetings from May through August were dedicated to building rapport among members, reviewing the project proposal, and planning the implementation of the listserv. A significant portion of this time was spent addressing data privacy and security, particularly in light of Utah's new privacy policies. This led to a decision to scale back initial data collection for the listserv to only include a participant's name, email, and their preferred method of participation. This ensures that any group submitting an abstract for a project will be responsible for their own data collection and protection protocols, which will be reviewed by the advisory committee before approval.

The first project, a listserv now known as the Survivor Experience Network, went live on September 10th. After being presented and approved by the Victim Services Commission in August 2025. This secure online platform allows individuals affected by crime to voluntarily sign up to receive invitations to contribute to surveys, interviews, and other feedback opportunities. The listserv will serve as a key resource for the VSC and its subcommittees, providing a dedicated group of individuals ready to inform projects aimed at improving victim services. Within two days of being published, we had 18 subscribers.

Future Plans and Next Steps

The seven inaugural members of the advisory committee will continue their service. A key responsibility will be to review and approve abstracts for future projects that wish to engage with the listserv community.

The committee will now focus on the next two approved projects:

- Project #2: Survey: Under the advisement of Dr. Andrus, the committee will create a survey based on the needs and ideas identified from their own lived experiences. The survey will be designed to collect quantitative (Likert scale) and qualitative (open-ended) data about survivors' experiences with the criminal justice system and law enforcement. The goal is to identify both successes and areas needing improvement, ultimately leading to the development of tip sheets and best practices.
- Project #3: Interviews: Following the survey, the committee plans to conduct in-depth interviews with 10-12 people from the listserv. The interview questions will be informed by the data gathered from the survey, allowing for a deeper exploration of key issues. The powerful narratives collected will be used to create pamphlets and other resources that combine survivor stories with practical advice and support.

The committee's work will produce a robust repository of survivor experiences that will be available to inform the VSC and other subcommittees, ensuring that the perspectives of survivors guide future initiatives.



photo by Hannah Bussing on Unsplash

Join the Survivor Experience Network

The Utah Victim Services Commission believes that meaningful change must be shaped by those most impacted.

<https://mailchi.mp/utah.gov/survivor-advisory-sign-up-landing-page>



17

Victim Rights Committees

Legislation in HB532 (2024) and HB308 (2024) required the Victim Services Commission (VSC) to assume responsibility for the oversight of the eight statutorily created Judicial Victim Rights Committees, created in Title 63M, Chapter 7, Part 10, from the Crime Victims Council (Council). The Council under HB532 (2024) was repealed effective December 31, 2024; however, the oversight responsibility was transferred effective May 1, 2024. HB308 (2024) created a Crime Victim Rights Committee Coordinator (Coordinator) position to support the Committees and victims engaged in the complaint process.

The Judicial Victim Rights Committees (Committees) align with 63M-7-904(1)(i)(i)(B),(C). The Committees are formed from various criminal justice partners that reside and work within the district they represent. The multidisciplinary makeup of each committee ensures that different perspectives and experiences are brought to the meetings to facilitate a thorough review of each complaint. The Committees assist in ensuring that all crime victims are treated with dignity, respect, courtesy, and sensitivity; and the rights of crime victims are honored and protected by law in a manner no less vigorous than the protections afforded to criminal defendants. The Committees review the complaints of victims and assist in addressing any individual or agency that may be violating these rights.

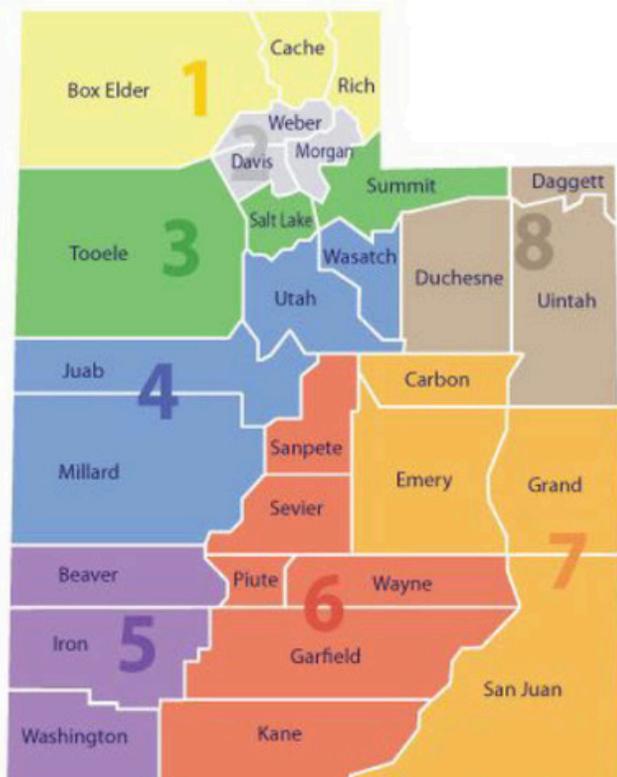
The Judicial Victim Rights Committees will continue to address any victim rights complaints that we receive throughout the upcoming year and ensure that each agency is honoring the rights of victims that are protected by law. The Judicial Victim Rights Committees have held 40 meetings throughout the state from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025. The Victim Rights Coordinator has worked to streamline the complaint process and provide support to the committees to ensure that complaints are handled in a timely and equitable manner. The Victim Rights Coordinator attends stakeholder meetings and training to educate those within the criminal justice system and community about the complaint process and how it can ensure that victim rights are elevated throughout the state.

Since 2020, the number of victim rights complaints has increased from a low of 15 to a high of 30 in 2023. To date, in 2025, there have been 79 victim rights complaints received, which is a 426 percent increase from 2020. Notably, the victim rights complaint form became available to complete online in November 2023, and in 2025, the form was updated and made available in English and Spanish.



Judicial District Victim Rights Chairs

1. Chair-Blair Wardle
2. Chair-Reed Richards
3. Chair-Rachel Miller
4. Chair-Sandi Johnson
5. Chair-Chad Dotson
6. Chair-Devin Shakespear
7. Chair-Andrea Noyes
8. Chair-Michael Harrington



While the sharp increase in complaint volume is significant, a qualitative analysis of the 2025 data provides deeper insights into the substantive issues victims face within the criminal justice system. Deconstructing these complaints reveals key trends in violation types, case outcomes, and the specific crimes most frequently associated with victim rights issues.

The most prevalent issue raised by victims involves inadequate notification and communication with actors in the criminal justice system. Common examples include victims expressing frustration with the perceived lack of progress in an investigation or not being informed about critical case resolutions. This highlights a systemic need for more proactive and sensitive communication protocols.

To track trends and identify systemic barriers, the Victim Rights Coordinator collects data to track complaint outcomes. In 2025, 18.2% of complaints were sustained as a violation of a victim's rights, while 81.8% complaints had no violation of a victim's rights found.

This outcome distribution is highly instructive. While the majority of claims were not formally sustained as a violation, the complaint process itself is invaluable. It allows the Victim Rights Coordinator to identify and track common procedural hurdles and communication breakdowns that negatively impact victims' experiences. This information is critical for developing targeted training and policy recommendations aimed at addressing these systemic barriers. This high rate of non-sustained complaints strongly indicates a disconnect between victim expectations for support and communication and the system's current statutory obligations, highlighting a critical area for legislative and procedural refinement.

The 2024 reforms were designed not merely to process complaints more efficiently but to make the justice system more transparent, responsive, and accessible to victims. The procedural improvements implemented in 2025 focused on fostering greater direct participation and ensuring the system is both accountable and approachable.

A key development has been enhanced meeting participation. Under the new statute, the Victim Rights Coordinator has successfully assisted several victims in attending and giving statements directly to the Committees during their meetings. In a further move toward transparency, the subjects of complaints have also attended meetings to provide their input. This practice of bringing all parties to the table has demystified the review process and reinforced its integrity.

Further strategic initiatives in 2025 have solidified the VSC's commitment to victim engagement and system improvement.

Key 2025 Initiatives

- Ensured every Judicial District Committee held a meeting and formally reviewed a complaint, establishing a baseline of activity and responsiveness across the state.
- Updated the official complaint form to provide clearer explanations and guidance for victims, reducing confusion and empowering filers.
- Made the complaint form available in both English and Spanish to improve accessibility for a broader population of victims.
- Facilitated the participation of Committee members in Legislative Review Sessions, ensuring that frontline experiences directly inform future policy development.
- Conducted presentations and training for key stakeholder groups, including UCOPA, District Court Judges, SWAVO, and the Victim Assistance Academy, to promote awareness and adherence to victims' rights.

These targeted efforts demonstrate a holistic approach to reform, focusing on both individual support and systemic improvement.

The legislative and operational changes implemented in 2024 have successfully centralized and professionalized victims' rights oversight in the state. By consolidating responsibility within the Victim Services Commission and creating a dedicated support role in the Victim Rights Coordinator, the new framework has moved beyond a passive review process to an active system of support, engagement, and data-driven improvement.

The ongoing work to improve the Victims' Rights Committee statute further underscores a commitment to continuous improvement. The progress achieved in 2024 and 2025 has laid a strong foundation for a more responsive, transparent, and effective system dedicated to elevating victims' rights across the state.

Victim Rights Complaint Form

The Utah Victim Services Commission oversees and supports the eight judicial district Victim Rights Committees. These committees are created to support the exercise of victim rights by all victims of crime. If you are the victim of a crime who believes that your rights have been violated by an agency or individual within the criminal justice system, please complete the following information. In order for the form to be considered, you must answer the required questions (marked with *). Any other questions you can answer are very helpful. Learn more about how your response data will be managed [here](#).

Once submitted, the complaint will be forwarded to the appropriate Chair with the Victims Rights Committee in your judicial district. If you are thinking about submitting a victim rights complaint, it's important to understand a few key points about the process.

The Judicial Victim Rights Committees respect your privacy and will keep your information private within the Committees. However, the process for making a complaint is not confidential. Your complaint will be reviewed at a [public meeting](#) and shared with the subjects mentioned in your complaint. During the meeting you will be identified using the least amount of information about you to protect your identity. Keep in mind that, since the Committees are part of a government agency, anyone can request to see the information they hold ([GRAMA](#)).

The Judicial Victim Rights Committees may be reaching out to the subject(s) of your complaint. The Committee can request that the subject(s) respond in writing or attend a Judicial Victim Rights Committee meeting. The subject(s) are not required to respond. If a written response is received you can contact the Victim Rights Coordinator for a copy.

You can choose what information to provide on the complaint form. Even if it's incomplete, your complaint will still be reviewed, but missing details may limit the actions that can be taken.

If you have more questions regarding your privacy contact: Katie Fox, Victim Rights Coordinator. Phone: 385-508-5442. Email: katiefox@utah.gov.

I. VICTIM/WITNESS INFORMATION

*Victim First Name

Victim Rights Complaints



Photo by David Berry

37TH ANNUAL CRIME VICTIMS CONFERENCE
ROOTED IN JUSTICE
ELEVATING VICTIM SERVICES THROUGH UNITY

**Affordable Learning.
Statewide Access.
Continuing Education.**



Utah Victim
Services Commission

***Crime Victims
Conference***

April 24 - 25, 2025

37th Annual Crime Victims Conference

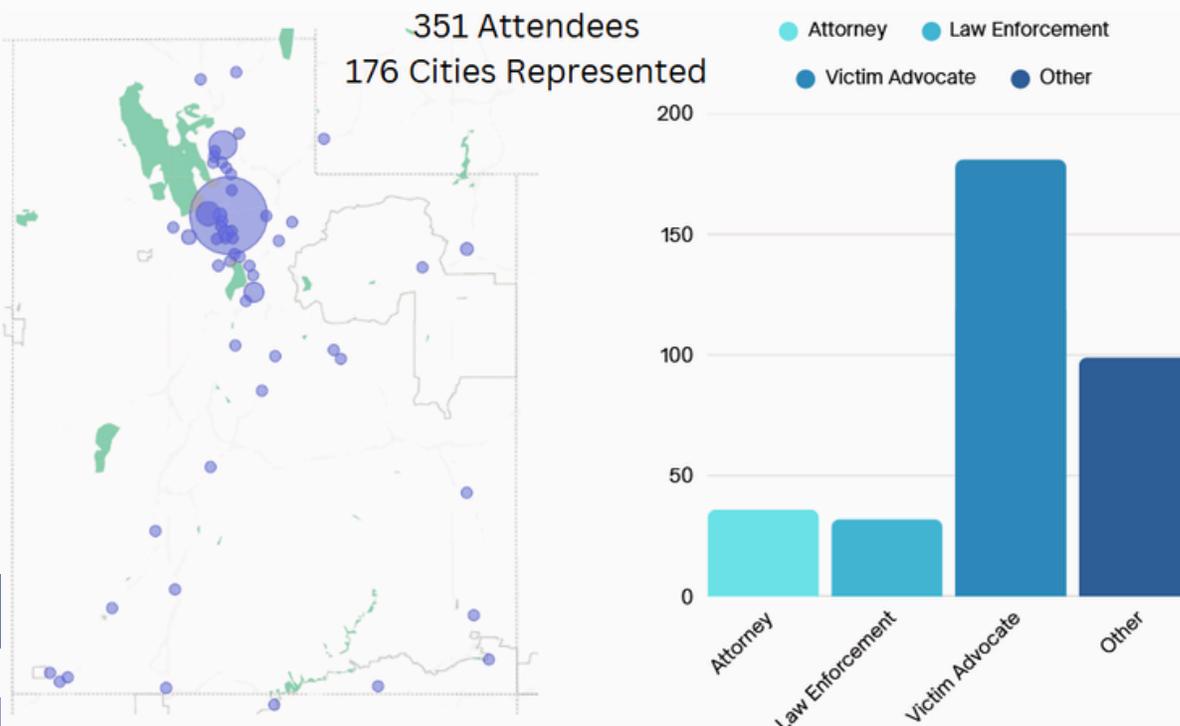
The Crime Victims Conference serves as a pillar in the field of victim services—upholding the voices of survivors, strengthening professional practice, and supporting the foundation that those impacted by crime deserve a more just and compassionate response from their communities.

Through trauma-informed training, survivor-centered dialogue, cross-sector collaboration, and a commitment to policy change, we unite professionals across disciplines to elevate standards of care and expand the foundation of knowledge, empathy, and advocacy.

Together, we stand as pillars—supporting one another, learning from those with lived experience, and advancing a future where all victims are seen, heard, and supported.

We prioritize keeping registration costs low to ensure the conference remains accessible to professionals and advocates across Utah. By offering both in-person and virtual attendance options, participants from every region can take part and benefit from expert-led sessions.

Each year, we align our agenda with continuing education standards for POST, the Utah State Bar, and NASW-UT, helping attendees maintain their credentials while expanding their knowledge and skills.





The Utah State Legislature established the Utah Victim Services Commission in 2023. The mission of the Utah Victim Services Commission is to generate unity to reduce and eliminate the impact of crime on victims through a comprehensive and evidence-based prevention, treatment, and trauma-informed justice strategy. The Commission, in partnership with other state agencies and community based partners, has nine statutory responsibilities as outlined below.

VIEW US ONLINE

In September 2024, the Victim Services Commission website went live on the CCJJ web page. As part of the VSC website, there is information about the Commission, duties, membership and staff, victim rights and the complaint process, and resources.

<https://justice.utah.gov/victim-services-commission>

JOIN A MEETING

You are welcome to join our meetings and can access dates, times, and links through the Public Meetings Website. To subscribe please go to: [Victim Services Commission](#)

For more information, please contact VSC Assistant: Rachelle Hill at rachellehill@utah.gov.