

DUCHESNE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Protecting the safety and stability of Duchesne County residents facing abuse and stalking.



INVOLVEMENT

In rural eastern Utah, the Duchesne County Sheriff's Office stands as a vital source of support for victims of crime. With only a handful of attorneys in the area—and even fewer who practice family law—many residents have nowhere to turn for affordable legal help. When survivors seek protective orders, it's often the victim advocates at the Sheriff's Office who provide support during the process.

Each time a victim sought a civil protective order, their team of victim advocates faced a difficult boundary. They knew what judges looked for, how cases were typically decided, and what details could make a difference—knowledge earned from supporting hundreds of survivors through the process. But without CJA certification, they couldn't fully apply that knowledge, held back by the limits of the unauthorized practice of law. Certification finally gave their team the ability to use that knowledge to effectively guide victims through the process.

They trained their first Domestic Violence Community Justice Advocate in 2025. She joined the program because she did not want the individuals she served to sacrifice safety and peace of mind because they couldn't afford or find an attorney. She is now able to leverage her experiential knowledge and her substantive legal learning to benefit clients, helping them to understand their options, provide legally relevant information, organize evidence, and prepare to present their case to the judge.

AT A GLANCE

Mission

To protect the lives, property, and rights of all people, to maintain order, and to enforce the law. This will be achieved through the efforts of our experienced and well trained officers and staff of the Duchesne County Sheriff's Office. Together, we will improve and maintain the quality of life we enjoy to ensure our County is a safe place to live, work, and visit.



Duchesne County



1 Domestic Violence
Community Justice Advocate



Partner Since 2025

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IMPLEMENTATION

Their team of victim advocates receives referrals from law enforcement, community partners, and crime victims. They route the more complex cases to their CJA, who is able to meet with the client and provide legal help.

Their CJA provides the full scope of services within the DV CJA certification, as the community needs someone who can provide help throughout the process. They make referrals to organizations such as Utah Legal Services when appropriate.

Because their team of victim advocates was already supporting individuals in the protective order process, participation in this program has not had a significant impact on their workflow or caseload. They report that now, "we're just able to provide better service."

Their CJA works closely with the DV CJA at Friends Against Family Violence, providing cross-referrals and support for out-of-office periods. Utilizing cross-agency referrals has strengthened both organizations.

They are planning to train additional victim advocates in their office in order to provide legal services to more clients.

IMPACT

Saving the Day

The Duchesne County Sheriff's Office DV CJA estimates that, without her legal help, 20% of clients who make valid requests would be denied the order because of avoidable mistakes. "We may not be saving their lives, but we're certainly saving the day."

Peace of Mind

"I think giving [our community] peace of mind that they're not alone when they can't afford an attorney has been invaluable for those people who have needed help. When I'm able to say, "People do this all the time—let me walk you through it, you're going to represent yourself, but we'll go over it ahead of time," they just feel better. It's like a breath of relief knowing that they're not alone."



I don't think that anybody can be a true expert in this field. They can have as much knowledge as they can, but there's always something new. Being able to have [the CJAU network], to have the Attorney Mentor, is invaluable. I love to listen to the roundtable [discussions], even if I don't have questions, because if they're dealing with something now, I'll probably deal with it again later.

It's nice to know who's across the state doing this work. I have people call me from all over the state. It's nice to be able to say, "I know who's in your jurisdiction, give this person a call." It's even nicer to be able to know for sure that there are people who have the extra training that I have and can help in that way.

Lindsey Garlick

*Domestic Violence
Community Justice Advocate*