

Utah Domestic Violence Coalition

Advocate • Collaborate • Educate

UTAH Domestic Violence Related Deaths in 2019

Prepared: 03/11/2019

Count	Name	Date of Death	Age	Children	Cause of Death	Location	Fatality Caused By	Circumstances
1	Ashley Vigil	01/15/2019	26	N/A	Stabbing	South Salt Lake, Salt Lake County	Boyfriend	<p>Angelo Terry Kirstine stabbed his girlfriend, Ashley Vigil, to death in a domestic violence incident in South Salt Lake and then turned himself in at a local hospital. After the incident, Kirstine sought help for some kind of mental distress and told others he had hurt someone and that person needed to be checked on.</p> <p>Police were notified of the incident around 1 a.m. by multiple people attempting to report the stabbing. Kirstine's grandfather also went to the couple's apartment in South Salt Lake and found the woman deceased with an "apparent stab wound to the neck."</p> <p>The jail booking report states: "[Kirstine] is suspected of killing his current girlfriend. There is an active protective order against [Kirstine] which restricts him from contacting a female and her children."</p>
2	UNK	01/25/2019	4 months	N/A	Beaten to death	Midvale, Salt Lake County	Mother	<p>According to court documents, the mother of a 4-month-old boy, 20-year-old Jessica Mario Lujan, severely beat, scratched and even threw the baby in the time leading up to the infant's death. Lujan and the boy's father, 21-year-old Jose Ramirez, are both facing child abuse homicide charges.</p> <p>Police were first called to complaints that the infant</p>

								<p>was not breathing and was possibly in cardiac or respiratory arrest. The child had an illness which required him to be on oxygen, which was hooked up to the baby when officers arrived.</p> <p>Medics unsuccessfully tried to revive the child, who was pronounced dead on the scene.</p> <p>Lujan admitted to striking the infant during an argument with Ramirez because "the child was screaming and she became angry." "She admitted to striking him several times and scratching him with her fingernails. She then states that she placed the child into his car seat, upside down."</p> <p>Ramirez told police he witnessed Lujan "throw the infant into the car seat upside down," when he began to care for the child while the child's mother went to sleep. Ramirez says the child then fell asleep, and he went to sleep himself.</p> <p>The next morning, Ramirez woke up to find the child unresponsive, but did not call 911, rather he tried to perform CPR on the baby. Eventually Lujan called 911, but did not speak with anyone, rather she set the phone down and left the room.</p>
3	Sarah Hawley	01/27/2019	27	N/A	Gunshot	Sugar House, Salt Lake County	Boyfriend	<p>Travis Geddes, 30, and Sarah Hawley, 27, were found dead inside their Sugar House home. Investigators believe Geddes killed Hawley and then killed himself. Police were called just after 8 p.m. Sunday by a neighbor. The woman heard a "disturbance" and possibly a woman screaming, Shearer said. She thought the house was possibly being burglarized and called 911. When officers arrived, they found the couple dead inside the home.</p> <p>There was not a history of reported domestic violence between the couple.</p>
4	Travis Geddes	01/27/2019	30	N/A	Gunshot	Sugar House, Salt Lake County	Self-inflicted	<p>Travis Geddes, 30, and Sarah Hawley, 27, were found dead inside their Sugar House home. Investigators believe Geddes killed Hawley and then killed himself. Police were called just after 8 p.m. Sunday by a neighbor. The woman heard a "disturbance" and possibly a woman screaming, Shearer said. She</p>

								thought the house was possibly being burglarized and called 911. When officers arrived, they found the couple dead inside the home. There was not a history of reported domestic violence between the couple.
5	Dylan Milian	02/01/2019	23	At least 2	Gunshot	Logan, Cache County	Ex girlfriend's current boyfriend	<p>A 911 call came in about 6:30 a.m. from an apartment unit in Logan with a woman telling dispatch that Dylan Milian, 23, had been shot in the torso. Police arrived and tried to save him, but were unsuccessful. The shooter was Jeremy Boyle, 26, the current boyfriend of Jordan Oakland (Milian's ex).</p> <p>"My ex came to get the kids," said Oakland on a call to Logan Dispatch. "Last night he threatened to kill the person I am with, and then he showed up at six in the morning to get the kids." When he arrived that morning, she was going to make arrangements for him to leave so she went out to start her car. At that point, Milian stepped inside the apartment. Some type of argument occurred between Boyle and Milian, resulting in Boyle shooting Milian.</p> <p>Oakland's four children, as well as her mother, were all staying in the apartment at the time of the shooting. Police released Boyle from custody while they attempt to determine whether or not the shooting was justified.</p>
6	Belinda Thomas	02/10/2019	46	At least 1	Stabbing	West Valley City, Salt Lake County	TBD (Roommate)	<p>A 5-year-old neighbor called the police on behalf of Belinda Thomas and her 5-year-old son. The child indicated to officers that a woman was hurt and needed help. Officers arrived and discovered the door to the trailer home was open. Inside, they found Belinda Thomas suffering from what appeared to be multiple stab wounds. Officers began life saving efforts but were not able to revive Thomas.</p> <p>After investigation, police identified the suspect as Darren Byrd, 50, and located the vehicle he was driving. Byrd was found and then booked on charges of aggravated murder, child abuse, obstruction of justice, and domestic violence in the presence of a child among other charges.</p> <p>Thomas' 5-year-old son has been taken into immediate custody by the Division of Child and Family Services.</p>

7	Steven Richard Nyce	02/18/2019	61	UNK	Beaten to death	Millcreek, Salt Lake County	TBD (Roommate)	<p>The body of Steven Richard Nyce, 61, was found at his home. Tyler James Vernon, 37, was arrested for investigation of aggravated murder in his death.</p> <p>Police were called to the house after witnesses say Vernon ran outside the house with bloody hands yelling that someone was hurt. Vernon told a neighbor "he had just killed someone." The first arriving officers found Vernon standing on a front porch holding a metal object. "Officers gave several commands for (him) to drop the object, which he did, and was safely taken into custody."</p> <p>Police then entered the house and found Nyce "lying face up in the living room next to the couch," according to the report. He had "suffered severe head injuries and appeared to be deceased." Investigators said Nyce appeared to have been beaten to death. Officers noted in the report that items in the room were knocked over, as if there had been a struggle in the room.</p> <p>Investigators believe both men lived in the house, but it was not immediately known how they were associated.</p>
8	Blaine Reed	02/21/2019	35	2	Gunshot	Layton, Davis County	Ex girlfriend's current boyfriend	<p>Blaine Reed was shot and killed upon breaking into the home of his ex-girlfriend's current boyfriend after the two men got into a physical altercation.</p> <p>According to Reed's attorney (who was representing him for a separate domestic violence incident), Reed called him on 02/21/2019 and told him he was angry and felt betrayed after finding out his best friend since grade school was in a relationship with an ex-girlfriend of two years who he still wanted to be with. His attorney said he told Reed to get counseling and not do anything stupid.</p> <p>After speaking with his attorney, Reed ended up going to the (currently unnamed) man's house to confront him. Reed then apparently entered the home without permission and confronted the man about the alleged</p>

								<p>relationship with his ex-girlfriend. Things got heated and violent which inevitably resulted in the unnamed man shooting Reed. After shooting Reed, he then called the police and explained the situation. Police and paramedics arrived on scene, taking Reed to a local hospital where he was then pronounced dead.</p> <p>In October of 2018, Reed was charged with attempted strangulation with a deadly weapon enhancement and misdemeanor assault. This stemmed from a domestic violence dispute involving a woman he was dating at the time. The ex-girlfriend in this fatality incident is a different woman than the one who is the alleged victim in the 2018 domestic violence case.</p>
9	UNK	02/26/2019	6	N/A	Beaten, trauma to the brain	Sandy. Salt Lake County	Mother	<p>Reyna Flores-Rosales has been charged with murder, sexual abuse and child abuse in the death of her 6-year-old son.</p> <p>Sandy Police Department responded to Flores-Rosales's home when a 911 caller reported the boy was found unresponsive on the floor of the shower. When Sandy paramedics arrived, the boy had no pulse and first responders observed several injuries on the boy's body. A police officer noted the boy had burns, cuts, and 'deep wounds' all over his body.</p> <p>After being transported to Alta View Hospital, the boy was flown to Primary Children's where doctors noted the severe head trauma, amongst other injuries. Doctors told police the injuries to the boy's head appear to be from one incident and were definitely not accidental.</p> <p>Flores-Rosales reportedly told them that the boy had gone to the bathroom in a diaper and she left him in the shower for nearly an hour, occasionally checking on him. Officers then inspected the area where the boy was found and saw a small amount of blood on the floor of the shower. Flores-Rosales told detectives that the boy 'constantly had new bruises, marks, and</p>

								injuries.'
10	Maria De Jesus Cervantes	03/03/2019	53	At least 1	Stabbing	Bothwell, Box Elder County	Husband	<p>Maria De Jesus Cervantes, 53, was found dead in her Bothwell home Sunday morning with multiple stab wounds to her neck. The Box Elder County Sheriff's Office responded to a call for an unknown problem at the residence. A third party had called emergency dispatchers and said that "his brother told him he done something stupid" and that he and his wife needed medical attention. When Tremonton Police arrived at the home, Jose Gutierrez-Torres opened the door "covered in blood" and with wounds to his throat. An officer tried to assist Gutierrez-Torres, but he started to fight and had to be subdued.</p> <p>Officers found Cervantes's body face down and covered in blood in the back west bedroom. A bloody steak knife wrapped in a wash cloth was found laying near her head. Gutierrez-Torres was taken to a hospital, stabilized, and then moved to another hospital for surgery. Doctors found no evidence of defensive wounds when they examined Gutierrez-Torres, and it did not appear that Jose had been assaulted in any way other than by himself.</p> <p>Police interviewed family members, who said Gutierrez-Torres had sent a text message that said "he was soon going to join his brother-in-law," who had died a week earlier. At 5:45 a.m., Gutierrez-Torres called family members and said "they are dying." Family could also hear Cervantes groaning in the background. Cervantes's daughter also told police she received a text message from her mother around 5 a.m. stating "Jose has a knife call the police."</p> <p>Gutierrez-Torres is being held in police custody on one count of aggravated murder.</p>

