

Utah Domestic Violence Coalition

Advocate • Collaborate • Educate

UTAH Domestic Violence Related Deaths in 2018

Prepared: 01/03/2019

Count	Name	Date of Death	Age	Children	Cause of Death	Location	Fatality Caused By	Circumstances
1	Jaycieion Sanchez	01/16/2018	21 months	N/A	Head and other physical traumas	West Valley City, Salt Lake County	Mother's boyfriend	<p>On Jan. 16 officers were dispatched to Sanchez's home, on a report that one of her children, 21-month-old Jaycieion Sanchez, was unresponsive and unconscious. According to court documents, he was later pronounced dead at the hospital. When Jaycieion's body was examined by both police and medical personnel, there was, "obvious bruising on his cheek, his left eye, and his mouth," the probable cause statement said. Other bruises and scars were reported on parts of the child's body, that were consistent with injuries that could be caused with a hard, thin object. Court documents stated Isaiah Weaver, the mother's boyfriend, later admitted to hitting Jaycieion with a coat hanger over the course of several days.</p> <p>Jaycieion's mother, Gena Sanchez, stated that she had been leaving the children with Weaver while she went to work since he was reportedly living in their home at the time. Court documents state she was concerned for their well being and saw Weaver spank Jaycieion, kick him in the back, and hit her other 2-year old son on the mouth which caused his lips to puff up. Weaver admitted to police later that he had a bad temper on Jan. 16, and that he realized he had "gone</p>

								too far," while he was swinging the child. He faces one first-degree felony count of aggravated murder and two second-degree felony counts of child abuse for the death of Jaycieion. He will be tried as an adult.
2	Johnny Postlethwait	01/27/2018	54	At least one stepson	Stabbed	Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County	Stepson	<p>A witness heard the victim screaming and ran into his bedroom to find out what was going on. Upon entering the bedroom, the witness observed Charles Anthony Petrie, the victim's stepson, on the victim's bed with both of his hands on the knife, pushing it down into the victim's chest. During this time, the victim told the witness, 'He's f****ing killing me.' The witness wrestled the stepson off the victim. Petrie was then taken to the police station for processing. During the interview, detectives observed blood all over the Petrie's hands, shirt and shoes. The reporting officer noted that the victim had been resting on his back on the bed when he was stabbed.</p> <p>Petrie was arrested on charges of first-degree felony murder.</p>
3	Richard Phelps	03/19/2018	65	At least one	Stabbed	Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County	Son	<p>Warren Richard Phelps, 38, and his father Richard Phelps, 65, got into an argument in their apartment which they had shared for the last three years. The argument was reportedly over a TV, according to police.</p> <p>Warren Phelps used a knife to stab his father multiple times. He then "called 911 notifying them he had just stabbed his father in the heart," according to a Salt Lake County Jail report. Upon arriving on the scene, medical personnel tried to revive the victim, but were unsuccessful and he was pronounced dead at the scene. Police then booked Warren Phelps into Salt Lake County Jail where he is now facing felony murder.</p>

								charges. .
4	Neveah King	03/21/2018	4 months	N/A	Head and other physical traumas	Provo, Utah County	Mom's boyfriend	<p>On March 19, emergency crews were called on a report of a 4-month-old baby not breathing. Neveah King was taken by medical helicopter to Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City. She died after being on life support for 36 hours. Doctors indicated there was minimal brain activity and was likely brain dead upon arrival at the hospital. The State Medical Examiner's Office also found bruising in the child's abdomen and "evidence of severe dehydration and malnutrition showing that this child's death was likely caused by inflicted injuries and child abuse Doctors have informed police officers that the constellation of injuries to this child were likely caused by severe shaking, multiple impacts to the head, and squeezing of the abdomen while the injuries were inflicted upon the child.</p> <p>Willingham told police he was alone with the baby for about four hours. During that time, he claimed to put Neveah on a couch with a bottle "to stop the baby from 'freaking out,'" the charges state. He said he then took a shower, and when he got out, he found "the child laying on the couch unresponsive and not breathing." When detectives inspected the bottle, they "found it contained dried formula and mold as if it were old and not as described by Mr. Willingham as used that day,</p>
5	Brelynne "Breezy" Otteson	Disappeared on 12/30/17, body discovered 03/28/18	17	N/A	Stabbed to death	Eureka, Juab County	Friend's boyfriend	<p>Riley Powell was dating Breezy Otteson, but prior to that it was rumored that he had dated a woman named Morgan Henderson. After the relationship between Powell and Henderson, Henderson began dating a man named Jarrod Baum.</p> <p>Baum had warned Henderson against having male friends over at their home, and when he arrived home and found Otteson and Powell there he was livid. He tied them up, duct-taped their mouths and threw them</p>

								<p>in the back of Powell's Jeep. He told Henderson to get in.</p> <p>They drove a few miles outside town and stopped in front of a mine shaft wide enough to swallow a car and nearly 2,000 feet deep.</p> <p>Baum pulled the teenagers out of the Jeep and led them to the abandoned mine, at one point congratulating them on her pregnancy. While Otteson had hoped have a baby, investigators later found she wasn't pregnant. It's not clear why Baum mentioned it.</p> <p>He made her kneel and watch as he beat and stabbed Riley Powell to death, police said, before Baum sliced her throat and tossed her down the mine after him.</p> <p>The bodies stayed there for months as family and friends combed the desert, descending into several of the abandoned mines around Eureka. Searchers even stood over the pit known as the Tintic Standard Mine No. 2, but didn't go down because it was too deep for their team, Hunt said.</p> <p>Henderson, meanwhile, told police she hadn't seen the couple. A break came March 25, when Henderson was pulled over with weapons in her car and was arrested. She eventually told police the story of what happened and led them to the bodies.</p>
6	Riley Powell	Disappeared on 12/30/17, body discovered 03/28/18	18	N/A	Beaten and stabbed to death	Eureka, Juab County	Friend's boyfriend	<p>Riley Powell was dating Breezy Otteson, but prior to that it was rumored that he had dated a woman named Morgan Henderson. After the relationship between Powell and Henderson, Henderson began dating a man named Jarrod Baum.</p> <p>Baum had warned Henderson against having male friends over at their home, and when he arrived home and found Otteson and Powell there he was livid. He tied them up, duct-taped their mouths and threw them in the back of Powell's Jeep. He told Henderson to get</p>

								<p>in.</p> <p>They drove a few miles outside town and stopped in front of a mine shaft wide enough to swallow a car and nearly 2,000 feet deep.</p> <p>Baum pulled the teenagers out of the Jeep and led them to the abandoned mine, at one point congratulating them on her pregnancy. While Otteson had hoped have a baby, investigators later found she wasn't pregnant. It's not clear why Baum mentioned it.</p> <p>He made her kneel and watch as he beat and stabbed Riley Powell to death, police said, before Baum sliced her throat and tossed her down the mine after him.</p> <p>The bodies stayed there for months as family and friends combed the desert, descending into several of the abandoned mines around Eureka. Searchers even stood over the pit known as the Tintic Standard Mine No. 2, but didn't go down because it was too deep for their team, Hunt said.</p> <p>Henderson, meanwhile, told police she hadn't seen the couple. A break came March 25, when Henderson was pulled over with weapons in her car and was arrested. She eventually told police the story of what happened and led them to the bodies.</p>
7	Lonnie Marcel Bowen	04/17/2018	41	UNK	Gunshot	Magna, Salt Lake County	Police	<p>Lonnie Marcel Bowen was killed April 17, when police found him inside a pickup truck holding a knife to his ex-girlfriend's throat. The woman told investigators Bowen had surprised her outside her car around 11 p.m. the night before. She said he was "off his meds" and acting delusional. He reportedly punched her in the mouth and forced her into his truck, where he accused her of working with the police to have him killed. Bowen then forced the woman to drive him around.</p> <p>For the next several hours, Bowen and sometimes the</p>

								<p>woman called 911 to report the hostage situation and ask for a negotiator. The pair never gave police a good address. Dispatcher pinged the man's phone to Millcreek and later West Valley City.</p> <p>The man told dispatchers multiple times as officers tried to find the truck that he would stab the woman in the throat.</p> <p>Police later found the pickup near 3100 South and 5600 West. Officers chased the pickup and used spike strips, which eventually stopped the truck near 2750 South and 8400 West. Officers approached the pickup. A West Valley City yelled at Bowen, who was pulling the woman towards him in the passenger seat, to let the woman go. When the man didn't, the officer fired four or five rounds into the driver's side window, hitting Bowen in the passenger seat.</p> <p>Body camera footage shows that Bowen had a knife — described as 9 inches long, with a 5-inch blade — in his hand after the shooting.</p>
8	Delorean Pikyavit	04/18/2018	32	UNK	Gunshot	Sugarhouse, Salt Lake County	Police	<p>A call came to dispatch reporting a domestic violence situation in the area of 1100 East and Princeton Avenue. When officers arrived at the home, they tried to talk to the man, later identified as 32-year-old Delorean Pikyavit, who then went inside the house. That prompted police to switch tactics and treat the situation as if they were dealing with a barricaded person and a hostage. For the next hour, police attempted to talk to Pikyavit, and he came outside eventually at which point officers shot him. It is currently unknown what happened to cause officers to shoot at Pikyavit.</p> <p>The woman involved in the domestic violence call was already outside the home when the standoff began. Police said she and the suspect were in some kind of</p>

								domestic relationship.
9	Michael Skinner	04/22/2018	48	2	Gunshot	Provo, Utah County	Self-inflicted	<p>After Michael Skinner and his son got into a physical altercation, he and his mother decided to leave the house to allow Skinner time to calm down. When the woman went back into the house to get her shoes, her husband fired 10 shots from a 9mm handgun. She was struck in the abdomen and one foot by three of the shots. When police arrived, the woman and her son were taking cover behind a truck. At this point, Skinner had barricaded himself inside the home.</p> <p>After a six-hour standoff, which included police sending a robot to gain entry into the residence and firing tear gas canisters into the house, Skinner did not respond to their commands. Police then sent a K-9 unit into the home and at 4:39 a.m., Skinner was found dead. The investigation is ongoing, but the cause of his death appears to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound.</p>
10	Baleigh Bagshaw	05/07/2018	15	N/A	Knife attack, throat slit	Salt Lake City. Salt Lake County	Former adult housemate (had moved out prior to murder)	<p>Shaun French had lived in Baleigh Bagshaw's home from January 2017 to July 2017. It's unclear why he left, but Bagshaw's mother told police he wasn't welcome in the house after that, according to court documents.</p> <p>On May 2, five days before she was killed, Bagshaw told her mother that she'd had sex with French, beginning when she was 14. According to court documents, French called Bagshaw 13 times that day. Soon after, the mother received sexually explicit photos of Bagshaw via a newly created social media account. At that point, the two discussed reporting French, who they believed was behind the account, to police and getting a restraining order. According to another friend, French was "obsessed" with Bagshaw and said he wanted to marry her. That friend told investigators he had created the social media profile</p>

								<p>French used to message Bagshaw's mother.</p> <p>On May 7, French stopped at Bagshaw's home to talk to her about the rape allegations, according to a friend who was with him. French left the friend at a park and went to Bagshaw's house. When he came back, he had blood on his face and hands and said he'd cut the girl's throat. Bagshaw was on the phone with her mother when she died.</p> <p>After Bagshaw's death, French returned to his friend and reportedly said the two had to leave town, setting off on a multistate trek to flee police and dispose of evidence.</p>
11	Sherral Northrup	06/12/2018	81	4, and grandchildren	Skull fractures and brain injury	West Valley City, Salt Lake County	Grandson	<p>Emergency crews were called to a West Valley residence where they found 81-year-old Sherral Northrup on a brick floor in front of a shed with a traumatic brain injury, according to charging documents. Sherral Northrup was taken to a local hospital but died less than three hours later.</p> <p>Jason Northrup told West Valley police, "I killed my grandpa," the charges state.</p> <p>He said he had been living with his grandfather for a few months, and the two had been arguing over the past week. Family members said the two had been fighting "over the living condition," according to a Salt Lake County Jail report.</p> <p>That morning, the argument allegedly became heated. Police say Jason Northrup originally told them that the two "went at each other" and that he stumbled and fell on Sherral Northrup. But later, he said he "supermanned on him," according to the charges.</p> <p>Home surveillance video shows Jason Northrup exiting the shed, placing his hands on Sherral Northrup's shoulders, and "violently" shoving him to the ground,</p>

								<p>the charge state.</p> <p>An autopsy determined Sherral Northrup suffered skull fractures and brain hemorrhages, according to court documents.</p>
12	C.L.	06/12/2018	2	N/A	Blunt force trauma to abdomen	Cedar City, Iron County	Mom's boyfriend	<p>Brittany Juanita Hall and Gavin Michael Haar were recently charged with crimes including murder and child abuse regarding the death of Hall's son, C.L..</p> <p>C.L. was allegedly in Haar's care the night he died while his mother was at work. The couple were living together at the time. At around 12:30 a.m., Haar texted Hall "Get home now. Emergency (C.L.) not breathing." About one minute later he texted again, "Anyone ask about the bruises we got them four-wheeling." C.L. was transported to Cedar City Hospital and was pronounced dead at 1:49 a.m. C.L.'s body was covered with bruises on his forehead, eyes, ears, mouth and several circular bruises on the chest and abdomen.</p> <p>The couple told detectives C.L. had been sick since the previous Saturday after he had allegedly been thrown off an ATV and pinned underneath it. Haar and Hall detailed for authorities how they found the boy minutes later with the gas tank on his chest and the handlebars across his face. "Haar reported that he lifted the four-wheeler off of C.L. and that he and Hall checked him for injuries. They determined C.L. was fine and did not take him to the doctor," court documents state. In addition, Hall and Haar claimed the child had fallen about three feet Sunday morning while on a small rock-climbing wall at the park, hitting his face and hurting his mouth. Hall told police she had witnessed the ATV accident, but police said they found inconsistencies in the two versions of the story.</p> <p>During the course of the investigation, detectives learned that Hall could not have been with Haar and</p>

								<p>her son at the time of the accident as she had been working. The couple's roommate also confirmed that the couple and the child were all home Saturday night. Hall later admitted to police that she had not been with Haar camping, saying she only told the story, "Because that is what he tells me and that's all I have to go off of." Police learned through their investigation that Haar had previously been kicked out of a family member's home the couple was living with at the time, "due to his bad temper and the abusive manner in which he treated both Hall and C.L.," court records state.</p> <p>During the investigation, detectives discovered text messages from Haar to Hall that were sent about 6 ½ hours before the child was taken to the hospital. In the message, Haar appears to be upset with Hall about something she did: "I'm (expletive) livid. And your son is about to get an ass beating."</p> <p>After speaking with detectives, Hall and Haar fled the state. They were found in Washington in October and formally charged with the crimes in Snohomish County, Washington.</p>
13	Rose Martinez	06/17/2018	89	Yes, but unclear how many.	Gunshot	South Salt Lake, Salt Lake County	Grandson	<p>South Salt Lake Police have confirmed a Rose Martinez died and her husband is in critical condition after a hostage situation in South Salt Lake Sunday morning.</p> <p>Family members had called in to check on their grandparents. They said a man they did not recognize picked up the phone and would not tell them who he was. Family called police as they headed to the home. The man who answered the phone was R. Martinez's grandson, Abe Martinez.</p> <p>When family arrived, A. Martinez answered the door and told them he had taken the couple hostage.</p> <p>At that time, SWAT and a hostage negotiator were</p>

								<p>called to the scene. When negotiations started, it was clear the suspect intended to kill the elderly couple.</p> <p>Several outside agencies were called in to assist and a mobile command unit arrived on scene. Two officers responded next to the home where the A. Martinez had a weapon. When he fired his weapon from the side of the house, officers fired back and killed the A. Martinez.</p> <p>R. Martinez was pronounced dead at the scene and her husband was taken by ambulance in critical condition to the hospital.</p>
14	Abe Martinez	06/17/2018	44	UNK	Gunshot	South Salt Lake, Salt Lake County	Police	<p>South Salt Lake Police have confirmed a Rose Martinez died and her husband is in critical condition after a hostage situation in South Salt Lake Sunday morning.</p> <p>Family members had called in to check on their grandparents. They said a man they did not recognize picked up the phone and would not tell them who he was. Family called police as they headed to the home. The man who answered the phone was R. Martinez's grandson, Abe Martinez.</p> <p>When family arrived, A. Martinez answered the door and told them he had taken the couple hostage.</p> <p>At that time, SWAT and a hostage negotiator were called to the scene. When negotiations started, it was clear the suspect intended to kill the elderly couple.</p> <p>Several outside agencies were called in to assist and a mobile command unit arrived on scene. Two officers responded next to the home where the A. Martinez had a weapon. When he fired his weapon from the side of the house, officers fired back and killed the A. Martinez.</p> <p>R. Martinez was pronounced dead at the scene and</p>

								her husband was taken by ambulance in critical condition to the hospital.
15	Chasidy Gerber	06/26/2018	37	At least 1	Gunshot	West Valley City, Salt Lake County	Roommate and/or property cohabitant	<p>Kennedy Lund, 23, has been charged with two counts of aggravated murder after shooting two people in West Valley on June 26. The victims were identified as Chasidy Gerber, 37, and Martin Barron, 33.</p> <p>Autopsy reports confirmed that the couple died from gunshot wounds. Gerber had multiple gunshots wounds in her chest and Barron had a single gunshot wound in the chest.</p> <p>Lund approached the pair, who were with their children at the time, not clothed and carrying a gun. Barron quickly took his children inside of the trailer they were living in.</p> <p>Witnesses said there was no exchange between Lund and the pair. Lund opened fire, killing Gerber and Barron. After shooting the victims, Lund ran across the street to his father's house. He stated to his father, that he "may have killed someone." Police say the suspect used his personal gun, an AR-15 rifle.</p>
16	Martin Barron	06/26/2018	33	At least 1	Gunshot	West Valley City, Salt Lake County	Roommate and/or property cohabitant	<p>Kennedy Lund, 23, has been charged with two counts of aggravated murder after shooting two people in West Valley on June 26. The victims were identified as Chasidy Gerber, 37, and Martin Barron, 33.</p> <p>Autopsy reports confirmed that the couple died from gunshot wounds. Gerber had multiple gunshots wounds in her chest and Barron had a single gunshot wound in the chest.</p> <p>Lund approached the pair, who were with their children at the time, not clothed and carrying a gun. Barron quickly took his children inside of the trailer they were</p>

								<p>living in.</p> <p>Witnesses said there was no exchange between Lund and the pair. Lund opened fire, killing Gerber and Barron. After shooting the victims, Lund ran across the street to his father's house. He stated to his father, that he "may have killed someone." Police say the suspect used his personal gun, an AR-15 rifle.</p>
17	George Peterson	07/06/2018	52	4 biological, 4 step children	Gunshot	Pleasant Grove, Utah County	Nephew	<p>George Peterson was shot after an altercation that began when police say he knocked on his brother's door at 1373 W. 3040 North wielding a hammer in each hand. There was "a history" between the brothers, police say, and George Peterson was trespassing. A family member "engaged him at the doorway and a short altercation ensued" before George Peterson's nephew, Kolby Peterson, 28, stepped in the doorway and shot George Peterson once in the chest. Prosecutors concluded that the shooting was legally justified.</p>
18	UNK	07/14/2018	UNK	UNK	Gunshot	Vernal, Uintah County	Self-inflicted	<p>Deputies were dispatched to a family fight; the call was immediately updated to 'shots fired,'" the news release said. "When deputies arrived, they found an adult female victim in a neighbor's residence that had been shot multiple times. Deputies were directed to another residence where it was believed the shooter had fled. After a short search, an adult male, believed to be the suspect, was found deceased inside that residence.</p> <p>According to witnesses, a physical altercation could be heard between the man and woman inside their residence. The woman then ran from her residence and was knocking on her neighbors' doors looking for</p>

								<p>help.</p> <p>“The male suspect followed after her and shot her multiple times with a handgun as one of the neighbors was opening their door,” the news release goes on. “The neighbor was able to get the victim inside his residence until law enforcement and EMS crews arrived.”</p> <p>The suspect then fled back to his residence where deputies found him deceased by a self-inflicted gunshot.</p>
19	Alex Hidalgo Jr.	07/21/2018	10 months	N/A	Stabbing	Ogden, Weber County	Father	<p>Alex Hidalgo was watching Hidalgo Jr. and another child Friday afternoon while Hidalgo Jr.’s mother was out running errands. Upon her return, she said Hidalgo was reading the Bible and watching a video of religious music and sermons.</p> <p>After the mother was unable to locate their child and inquired as to his whereabouts, she said Hidalgo told her that “he had built an altar like they had talked about,” and that the boy had “666 on him.” Hidalgo then told her that Hidalgo Jr. was dead, which she initially believed to be a joke. However, upon Hidalgo telling her not to call anyone or he’d be sent to prison, she began searching for her son, ultimately discovering his body in a trash bag inside a garbage can located in a closet.</p> <p>Hidalgo fled as the mother and a neighbor attempted to resuscitate the child. Medical personnel soon arrived after a 911 call, and attempted to revive him. Hidalgo Jr. was subsequently transported to a nearby hospital, where he was pronounced dead.</p> <p>Police said a post-mortem examination revealed the</p>

								child had been stabbed three times in the neck, severing the carotid artery and jugular vein, and impacting the spine.
20	Lucas Call	08/05/2018	2	N/A	Blunt force trauma	Neola, Duchesne County	Foster mom	<p>Duchesne County deputies were dispatched to the home of Lisa Jo Vanderlinden in Neola on August 5 receiving reports of a deceased child. Upon arrival they found the toddler, identified as L.C., dead with multiple bruises and cuts on his face and body.</p> <p>A medical examiner later determined the boy had died from internal injuries that were the result of blunt force trauma consistent with child abuse.</p> <p>Vanderlinden, a 41-year-old licensed practical nurse who had previously fostered and adopted several other children, told police that the night before the boy was found dead she had been 'mad and frustrated' with him, according to court documents.</p> <p>Police say Vanderlinden removed the boy from the dinner table on the evening of August 4 and he later began vomiting, so the nurse bathed him and changed his diaper several times over the course of the night. Court documents state that at one point that night a family member heard a 'loud bang' that came from the bathroom where Vanderlinden was caring for the toddler. Following the noise, the boy wasn't acting normal and would not walk, the documents say.</p> <p>Other children in Vanderlinden's care on the night of the accident told police that she had been angry and yelling.</p> <p>Investigators later looked into the internet history on Vanderlinden's phone and found that she had conducted several searches related to child injury, specifically the same type of injuries that the boy died from.</p>

21	Shiela Jean Dunn	08/06/2018	54	UNK	Stabbing	South Ogden, Weber County	Roommate	<p>Officers were dispatched to 3700 S. Washington Blvd on the report of a “female body lying on the ground with flies on her.” When police arrived on scene and began to investigate, they determined that the woman was deceased, and had stab wounds on her body. Police said the woman was identified on scene by an officer who had dealt with her on prior cases.</p> <p>Police responded to the deceased woman’s home, where they met with two other occupants, identified by the affidavit as Jesus Martinez Ramos, 44, and another woman. Both the woman and Ramos agreed to be transported to the police department for an interview.</p> <p>When the two arrived at the police department, the affidavit said that each were advised of their Miranda Rights, but waived them and volunteered to speak with investigators. “During the interview, Jesus admitted to stabbing the deceased female victim several times, and later carrying her body to where it was later discovered,” the affidavit stated. “Jesus also admitted to cleaning up the crime scene and discarding all possible evidence in a dumpster in close proximity to the house. Jesus also admitted to having injuries to himself as a result of him stabbing the victim.”</p> <p>Police say the other roommate witnessed the crime, but Ramos threatened to stab her if she told anyone.</p>
22	Duane Youd	08/13/2018	47	2 biological, 4 step children	Plane crash	Payson, Utah County	Self-inflicted	<p>Duane Youd, 47, had been booked into the Utah County jail at about 7:30 p.m. Sunday after being suspected of assaulting his wife, Payson Police Sgt. Noemi Sandoval told the news media, including a FOX 13 reporter. He bailed out of jail, returned to the home with a police officer at about midnight to retrieve belongings and his truck, and left without incident.</p> <p>You'd later drove to the Spanish Fork airport, took flight</p>

								in a plane, and flew it directly to his home where he proceeded to crash directly into the home. The plane hit the house at about 2:30 a.m. and exploded. Firefighters arrived to find the home engulfed in flames. Youd's wife and her son, who were inside the house, escaped through the back of the home and were uninjured.
23	Valerie Brantzeg	08/22/18	50	At least one daughter (also injured)	Beaten with crowbar	Millcreek, Salt Lake County	Estranged husband	<p>On 8/22/18, Walter Brantzeg went to the home of his estranged wife, Valerie Brantzeg, and kicked open the front door. Once inside the home, W. Brantzeg began bludgeoning V. Brantzeg to with a crowbar; he also attacked her 13-year-old daughter with the crowbar, leaving her in "extremely critical condition" after the attack. Neighbors then saw V. Brantzeg exit her apartment screaming for help until, suddenly, she collapsed silently on the ground. She died shortly after paramedics had arrived on scene.</p> <p>After the attack, W. Brantzeg called local media and admitted to the crime, stating that he went into Valerie's home and beat her with a crowbar. He was later arrested after speaking with media when the police pinged his phone and found his location.</p> <p>Three weeks prior to this incident, V. Brantzeg had filed a temporary separation order from her husband. The reason is currently unknown, but V. Brantzeg had disclosed to friends that there was prior domestic violence in their relationship. W. Brantzeg also has a history of violence and sex abuse prior to this incident.</p>
24	Merrilee Cox-Lafferty	09/14/18	37	4	Beaten to death	Hyrum, Cache County	Ex-boyfriend	Merrilee Cox-Lafferty had returned to Utah from California in order to help her friend move. While she was in Utah helping her friend move, she decided to meet up with her ex-boyfriend, Stacy Robert Willis, during her visit. Cox-Lafferty stayed the night with

								<p>Willis on August 17th.</p> <p>On August 18th, neighbors at Willis' apartment complex heard Cox-Lafferty and Willis arguing about drugs. Willis attempted to get her to quiet down per a neighbor's request, and then he later declared that the two of them were going to drive up to Boise, ID. He then returned back home several hours later, alone, and stated that he had "taken care of the problem." He then reportedly told the other man that Cox-Lafferty backed his SUV into a tree, and he pulled her from the vehicle and beat her to death.</p> <p>Over the next few days, several incidents occurred: Logan Police found Cox-Lafferty's service dog, Coco, wandering around Logan; filed a missing person's report on August 21st; and Cox-Lafferty's car was found abandoned in Boise.</p>
25	Jan Pearson-Jenkins	10/05/18	64	UNK	Beaten	Eureka, Juab County	Boyfriend	<p>Cody Alexander Young, 42, was booked into the Juab County Jail Saturday night for investigation of murder in the death of Jan Pearson-Jenkins, 64. Friends of the woman's brother, Jace Pearson, discovered what is believed to be the body of Pearson-Jenkins on a sagebrush hillside Saturday about a mile from where the two of them are believed to have gone camping on Oct. 4 in the Silver City area of Juab County.</p> <p>"The female was nude, and three articles of clothing were found on the ground near her. The female had marks and bruising on the back and legs as well as a mark on her head. It appeared the body had been exposed to the elements for some time," the report states.</p> <p>Pearson said Young sent him text messages on Oct. 5 saying the two had been in an argument and that he left her in the Silver City/Eureka area. Pearson said the texts he received were bizarre. "It rambled on, it was</p>

								<p>55 pages of text messages that basically talked about their crazy relationship," he said, adding that they had apparently argued over money and work that his sister had hired him to do at their mother's house.</p> <p>Searches for Pearson-Jenkins were unsuccessful as were attempts to locate or contact Young. But during a coordinated search effort Saturday with the sheriff's office and the victim's family and friends, a campsite was located "where evidence was found indicating this was where the individuals were camping," Pulver said in a statement. About an hour later, Pearson's friends on ATVs located the body about one mile from that campsite.</p> <p>Young, who police say is homeless and lives in his van, said he stayed in a Nephi parking lot for two days after leaving his girlfriend behind. "Cody stated he was hurting and needed to remove himself from the situation," deputies wrote in the report. He allegedly said he then went to the Yuba Lake area, where he remained until he was found on Saturday. Young also said he had read news reports about his missing girlfriend. "He stated that he had thought that something bad could have happened to Jan. Cody stated that he had received a link to a news report showing that Jan was missing, and law enforcement was actively searching for him. Cody made no attempt to contact law enforcement," the report states.</p> <p>"Cody would not admit to any physical violence between him and Jan. Cody admitted that he was aware that by leaving Jan something might possibly happen to her," according to the report. Deputies arrested him, saying in the report that he "knowingly engaged in conduct which created a grave risk of death to another, thereby caused the death to another."</p>
26	Diamonte Riviore	10/11/18	22	1	Gunshot	West Jordan, Salt Lake County	Police	Thursday afternoon, Diamonte Riviore went to a home off Cherry Leaf Drive at the Liberty Landing housing development near 7000 South where his ex-girlfriend

								<p>lives. The woman is also the mother of Riviore's child, according to police.</p> <p>At some point after Riviore arrived, the woman sent a text to a family member with a code word signifying that she needed help, said West Jordan Police Sgt. JC Holt. Three West Jordan police officers responded.</p> <p>The woman was able to answer the door and let the officers in, he said. The officers immediately came in contact with Riviore, who was holding a knife, according to Holt. After refusing to put the knife down, two officers deployed their Tasers, which were ineffective, he said. The third officer then used his gun, shooting and killing Riviore.</p> <p>The incident occurred just two days after Riviore was released from the Salt Lake County Jail after allegedly committing a similar threat against the woman. West Jordan police had responded to the same residence on Oct. 5, where the girlfriend reported that she was holding their 10-month-old child when Riviore "allegedly grabbed a lamp and threw it at the victims, hitting the primary victim in the face. The lamp also hit the child victim in the face," according to a Salt Lake County Jail report. Riviore then grabbed a knife and told the girlfriend, "See this? I will (expletive) stab you with it if you don't stop," the report states.</p> <p>The woman locked herself in the bathroom and called police. Riviore forced his way in and pushed the woman, who was still holding the young child, into the tub, according to the report. By the time police arrived, Riviore had put the knife down, Holt said. He was booked into jail but released four days later on Tuesday because no formal criminal charges had been filed against him, according to the jail.</p>
27	Jacob E. Albrethsen	10/12/18	17	N/A	Gunshot	Orem, Utah County	Police	Orem High School student Jacob E. Albrethsen, 17, was fatally shot by officers responding to a domestic dispute report. According to police dispatchers, the

								<p>shooting took place Friday about 3 p.m. at a home in Orem. Orem Police Lt. Craig Martinez said two officers were sent to the residence after 911 operators received a call of a family dispute. The officers entered the home and were confronted by Albrethsen, who was allegedly brandishing a knife. Martinez said one of the officers deployed a Taser on the Albrethsen, but it failed to stop him. Both officers then opened fire, critically wounding Albrethsen, who was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he died a short while later.</p> <p>Martinez said both officers were being questioned by investigators with the Utah County District Attorney's Office and that it was too early to fully know what led to the deadly shooting.</p>
28	Rebecca Sullivan	10/21/2018	41	N/A	Strangulation	Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County	Boyfriend	<p>According to UDVC stakeholders, Rebecca Sullivan died by strangulation at the hands of her boyfriend on October 21, 2018. After the strangulation had occurred, her boyfriend allegedly waited 30 minutes before contacting law enforcement. After law enforcement was able to arrive on the scene, she was rushed to the University of Utah Hospital. She inevitably died in the trauma surgery unit.</p> <p>Police are still investing the case and are waiting for the "cause and manner" of death to be determined. This case will be updated as more information comes in.</p>
29	Jason Whittle	10/22/2018	26	UNK	Gunshot	Riverton, Salt Lake County	Police	<p>Jason Whittle, 26, was shot and killed by Unified police after officers responded to reports of domestic violence at 11779 S. Stone Ridge Lane just after 6:40 a.m., according to Salt Lake County Sheriff Rosie Rivera.</p> <p>Police saw the man holding the knife to his 56-year-old mother's throat, then "took some action and shots were fired." The woman is now safe, and there is no</p>

								<p>remaining danger to the public.</p> <p>But the man's father, Robert Whittle, said his son was never a danger to anybody. "He had a butterknife, for heaven's sake," he said. "He didn't have anything that could harm her. He'd never harm her."</p> <p>Whittle said his son battled substance abuse and had "been on the streets" for the last month and a half to two months.</p> <p>Jason Whittle's mother was granted a protective order against him in July, according to court records.</p>
30	Lauren McCluskey	10/22/2018	21	N/A	Gunshot	Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County	Ex-boyfriend	<p>Lauren McCluskey, 21, was found shot to death in a car outside a campus residence hall. The suspect, a 37-year-old registered sex offender named Melvin Rowland, was later found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound inside a church near downtown Salt Lake City.</p> <p>McCluskey's mother, Jill, described her daughter's final moments. "Last night a little before 9 pm, she was returning to her university apartment from her night class and talking to me on the phone," she said. "Suddenly, I heard her yell, "No, no, no!" I thought she might have been in a car accident. That was the last I heard from her. My husband called 911. I kept the line open and in a few minutes, a young woman picked up the phone and said all of Lauren's things were on the ground."</p> <p>Jill McCluskey also said her daughter had "previously dated her killer for about one month" before she ended the relationship on Oct. 9 after learning of Rowland's criminal history. McCluskey also said that Rowland harassed her daughter after the breakup.</p> <p>"He lied to her about his name, his age, and his criminal history," she said in the statement obtained by</p>

								<p>Shara Park of KSL-TV. "Lauren was informed by a friend about his criminal history, and she ended the relationship with her killer on October 9, 2018. He had borrowed her car, and she requested for the University of Utah police accompany her on October 10, 2018 to get the car back. She blocked his and his friends' phone numbers and complained to University of Utah police that she was being harassed."</p> <p>University police received a report of a possible abduction in a parking lot outside a residence hall at around 8:20 p.m. local time on Monday night, with students reporting that they heard an argument and then gunshots. McCluskey's body was found inside a parked car near the south tower of the Medical Plaza, a residential hall on campus. Police then placed the campus on lockdown as they searched for Rowland, who was identified as a suspect in a university alert that was issued at 12:01 a.m. At 1:47 a.m., the school ended the lockdown, saying Rowland "has been located and is no longer a threat." Police learned Rowland was near Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church, about four miles west of campus near downtown Salt Lake City. Officers spotted him and pursued him on foot until he forced his way into the church through a back door. They found him inside, dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.</p>
31	Melvin Rowland	10/23/2018	37	UNK	Gunshot	Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County	Self-inflicted	<p>University police received a report of a possible abduction in a parking lot outside a residence hall at around 8:20 p.m. local time on Monday night, with students reporting that they heard an argument and then gunshots. Lauren McCluskey's body was found inside a parked car near the south tower of the Medical Plaza, a residential hall on campus. Police then placed the campus on lockdown as they searched for Rowland, who was identified as a suspect in a university alert that was issued at 12:01 a.m. At 1:47 a.m., the school ended the lockdown, saying Rowland "has been located and is no longer a threat." Police learned Rowland was near Trinity African Methodist</p>

								<p>Episcopal Church, about four miles west of campus near downtown Salt Lake City. Officers spotted him and pursued him on foot until he forced his way into the church through a back door. They found him inside, dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.</p> <p>Jill McCluskey also said her daughter had “previously dated her killer for about one month” before she ended the relationship on Oct. 9 after learning of Rowland’s criminal history. McCluskey also said that Rowland harassed her daughter after the breakup.</p> <p>“He lied to her about his name, his age, and his criminal history,” she said in the statement obtained by Shara Park of KSL-TV. “Lauren was informed by a friend about his criminal history, and she ended the relationship with her killer on October 9, 2018. He had borrowed her car, and she requested for the University of Utah police accompany her on October 10, 2018 to get the car back. She blocked his and his friends’ phone numbers and complained to University of Utah police that she was being harassed.”</p>
32	Jarrett Lichtenstein	11/13/2018	43	1	Gunshot	Davis County	Self-inflicted	<p>Jarrett Lichtenstein went to an apartment where a longtime girlfriend he had recently broken up with lives, crawled through her dog door to get into her residence, kicked in her bedroom door and then confronted her at gunpoint. For the next couple of hours, Lichtenstein threatened to kill the woman, her dogs and her landlord.</p> <p>Lichtenstein eventually left about 1:30 a.m. The woman, who was not injured, immediately called the sheriff’s office which put out an attempt to locate to other law enforcement agencies. Layton Police went to the man’s home, where they found his vehicle parked outside. Police approached the home and heard a single gunshot as they were knocking at the door. The officers immediately backed away and called in a</p>

								<p>SWAT team.</p> <p>For the next couple of hours, police attempted to make contact with either Lichtenstein or his 20-year-old son, who was also believed to be in the house. Neither answered their cellphones or attempts by officers to contact them by calling out. Eventually, the SWAT team used a flash-bang device at the front door, an apparatus that makes a very loud "bang" like an explosive. That noise woke up the son who was unaware of what was happening and did not know where his dad was. By 6:45 a.m., the SWAT team broke out Lichtenstein's bedroom window, and using a camera attached to a pole were able to see his body inside, dead from a self-inflicted gunshot.</p> <p>Court documents show Lichtenstein was arrested earlier this year for a domestic violence incident in Layton. It appears that incident involves the same woman targeted by Lichtenstein Tuesday, and that prior case was still making its way through the court system.</p>
33	Lisa Vilate Williams	11/25/18	26	Boyfriend's two young children were present during the murder	Gunshot	Midvale, Salt Lake County	Boyfriend's ex-wife	<p>Chelsea Watrous Cook, 32, was booked into jail on one count of aggravated murder after the shooting Lisa Vilate Williams, 26. Williams, who is dating Cook's ex-husband, was found with at least two gunshot wounds to her torso and ultimately died.</p> <p>Police learned Cook had come to the apartment to deliver cold medicine for one of the twin 3-year-old children the couple had from their previous relationship. Cook remained in the apartment unlawfully after being asked to leave, and locked herself in a bathroom.</p> <p>The woman eventually left the bathroom and walked toward her coat, but suddenly pulled out a handgun and fired three to five rounds at Williams, according to</p>

								<p>the statement of probable cause. Williams fell to the couch after being shot. Cook's ex-husband took the handgun away from her and went to help Williams, and Cook sat down on a chair. When Cook got up moved back toward her coat, he pinned her against the wall until police arrived.</p> <p>The man told police his 3-year-old twins were present during the ordeal</p> <p>Cook was involved in a domestic violence incident in October and a case was filed in Herriman City earlier in November. She was charged with two counts of domestic violence in the presence of the child and one count of assault..</p>
34	Richard Galvan	11/30/18	37	UNK	Gunshot	Ogden, Weber County	Police	<p>Richard (Ricardo) Galvan, 37, was killed by police officers who were responding to a report of an aggravated kidnapping after a victim approached an officer and asked for help.</p> <p>An Ogden police officer was flagged down by a woman who said she had been kidnapped, threatened, and held hostage for an entire day in her own home by Galvan. Police stated that the woman and Galvan started a relationship when he moved to Utah. Recently, that relationship was ended by the woman and Galvan didn't take the separation very well. "The female victim had recently told the suspect to stay away from her and he had made a threatening statement and yesterday, Nov. 30, she woke to find him in her home and spent the greater the part of the day at home. He then forced her to accompany him from the house and to drive him around in her vehicle," Police said.</p> <p>Officers responded to the area the woman said Galvan was at in the Ogden Municipal Building, and Galvan</p>

								<p>pulled a firearm on the officers "as soon as they were visible," police said. Galvan then opened fire at the officers. No police officers were hit, but a police car was hit. Two officers returned fire at Galvan, resulting in his death.</p>
35	Tequila Garcia	12/16/18	36	UNK	Hit and run	West Valley City, Salt Lake County	Roommates	<p>Two 24-year-olds are behind bars after police say the purposefully slammed a car into their car into their roommate, Tequila Garcia. Andres Mendoza and Alejandra Molina both face charges of criminal domestic violence homicide after the hit and run turned deadly.</p> <p>West Valley City police responded to the incident 2 a.m Sunday morning, where they found Garcia in the road. Police tried to save Garcia's life, but said they were unsuccessful — something, Garcia's friends can't believe.</p> <p>Garcia's friend of 19 years, Larisa Durazo said she had to go to the scene to believe it for herself. Durazo said it started as an argument between Garcia and the two others when things turned sour.</p>