

Utah Domestic Violence Related Deaths 2006

An Ongoing Public Information Report of the Utah Domestic Violence Council



This report has been reviewed and approved for public distribution by the Utah Domestic Violence Council. Any printed or broadcast use of information from this report must include the following statement: “To be listed in this report, case specific information must demonstrate a correlation between domestic violence and the death of the victim as demonstrated by corroborating public information. These troubling statistics document, in summary form, the broad scope and tragic impact of domestic violence in Utah. From public information available, each listed death shows domestic violence¹ between 1) cohabitants,² 2) persons in dating relationships or 3) family members not defined within the cohabitant statute.”

The Utah Domestic Violence Council compiles and continually updates information on domestic violence related deaths. Information contained in this report was gathered from public sources; largely from newspapers and from the electronic media. Once cases have resulted in official governmental action, the committee may refer to publicly available information from law enforcement, prosecution offices and/or the Utah State Courts.

While virtually all homicides are covered in the public media, and are therefore included in this report, the majority of suicides not related to a criminal event are not so covered. Accordingly, it is probable that a number of domestic violence related suicides are not learned of by the compilers of this report and are not included in this report. That assumption is supported by information compiled by the Utah State Department of Health from confidential sources.

For more information contact the Utah Domestic Violence Council at (801) 521-5544.

DATE OF DEATH	NAME, AGE, SITUATION, RELATIONSHIP	PLACE OF DEATH
<p>February 3, 2006 #1</p>	<p>Arthur S. Backus, Age 48, Domestic Violence Related Homicide</p> <p>Adultery was apparently the motive for the slaying of Arthur "Art" by Warren Dee Fellows. After learning his wife was having an affair with Art, Fellows drove to Art's residence and, finding Art in the driveway, shot and killed him there. Two Weber County sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a domestic dispute outside Art's home in West Haven at about 11:30 a.m. When they arrived they saw Fellows standing in the driveway, holding a rifle and a handgun. Fellows lifted his guns to aim at the deputies and one deputy fired two shots with a rifle, hitting Fellows and incapacitating him, according to a police spokesman. The deputies then found Art lying dead in his driveway. At the end of the crime scene investigation the spokesman was quoted as saying, "It is safe to say the victim was fleeing, running, fighting for his life." According to the testimony given during a preliminary hearing, Fellows, after learning his wife was having an affair, confronted Art. The two argued, fought and Fellows allegedly shot the victim multiple times with a .22-caliber rifle. During the struggle, the victim managed to call an emergency dispatcher. Following the shooting, Fellows allegedly took Art's wallet containing a good deal of money and took a handgun from Art's car. Fellows was charged with first-degree felony counts of murder and aggravated robbery. He was also charged with second- and third-degree felony counts of aggravated assault for pointing the gun at a deputy and a passerby who stopped to help Art. On June 28, 2006, Fellows appeared in the Second Judicial District Court and entered pleas of guilty to first degree felony Murder one count of third degree felony Aggravated Assault. On August 15, 2006, the court sentenced Fellows to serve a term of 6 years to life on the Murder and a term of zero to five years on the Aggravated Assault. Rejecting a recommendation in a pre-sentence report – one favored by both defense attorneys and prosecutors – the court ordered that Fellows' sentences run consecutively rather than concurrently.</p> <p><i>Sources: Standard Examiner, February 4, April 28 & June 29, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, April 27, 2006; Deseret Morning News, February 4, March 15, May 1 and August 17, 2006.</i></p>	<p>West Haven, Weber County</p>
<p>February 9, 2006 #2</p>	<p>Joanne Francis Landau Carlson, Age 48, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>Joanne died a day after being violently assaulted by Richard Carlson, her husband of 29 years. Police said Carlson struck his still-sleeping wife in the back of the head with a blunt object then tried to smother her with a pillow. Thinking she was dead, Carlson allegedly dragged his wife to the bathtub and turned on the water to fake her drowning. Carlson's 19 year old son told police he was awakened at 9:30 a.m by what he described as muffled cries for help. He said he found his father standing over his mother in their bedroom. He then went to a neighbor's house and called 911. Police and prosecutors are puzzled as to a motive. Following interviews with Carlson, a police spokesman said, "He got up in the morning and let the dogs out. When he walked back in the bedroom, he had a sudden urge to strike her." According to police, the couple had no known history of domestic violence. A daughter said her parents had argued but she had never witnessed violence between them. The Davis County Attorney's Office has charged Carlson with Murder, a first degree felony, and Obstruction of Justice, a second degree felony. On May 8, 2007, Carlson plead guilty to Murder, following which the charge of Obstruction of Justice was dismissed. Sentencing is scheduled for July 10, 2007, in the Second Judicial District Court.</p> <p><i>Sources: Deseret Morning News, February 16, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, February 11 & 23 and November 23, 2006 and May 9, 2007; Standard Examiner, February 11 & 13, 2006 and May 8, 2007.</i></p>	<p>Layton, Davis County</p>

<p>March 5, 2006 #3</p>	<p>Joseph Shawn Perkins, Age 23, Dating Violence Related Suicide</p> <p>Joseph died in a downstairs bedroom of his family's residence from a self inflicted gunshot. The death was the tragic culmination of an argument and mutually physical confrontation between him and his girlfriend. According to</p> <p>statements given to law enforcement, Joseph and his girlfriend had been out drinking alcohol for some hours. Prior to arriving at Joseph's residence in the early morning hours they had already been arguing. At approximately 5:00 a.m. on March 5th, the two were driven to Joseph's family's residence by a family member. The argument continued after they arrived at the residence and went downstairs, having been overhead by family members on the main floor of the residence. At one point during the arguing, Joseph came upstairs and awakened his brother while looking for his 9mm firearm. The brother observed hand marks on Joseph's neck and inquired about them. Joseph replied that his girlfriend had choked him and that they were fighting a lot. Those hand marks were still visible when police arrived and observed Joseph's body. Statements taken and observations made during the investigation also indicated that Joseph struck his girlfriend during the time they were arguing. After Joseph returned to the basement the brother heard continued yelling from downstairs. Some time after Joseph returned to the basement with the firearm the girlfriend came upstairs and, without seeing or talking to any other family member, left the residence. Joseph's mother reported to police that she heard a loud bang after which she heard the front door close. That statement and other information gathered during the investigation caused police to determine that the girlfriend was already upstairs and at or near the outside door when Joseph shot himself. Joseph's brother went downstairs and discovered Joseph's body, obviously dead, with a rifle lying on it. A report from the state medical examiner determined that the cause of death was a an apparent self inflicted gunshot wound to the head and that the muzzle of the gun was in the victim's mouth when the shot was fired.</p> <p><i>Sources: Standard Examiner, March 8, 2006; Box Elder County Sheriff's Office Investigation Report</i></p>	<p>Honeyville, Box Elder County</p>
<p>March 9, 2006 #4</p>	<p>Linda Elliot, Age 63, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>Linda died on her 63rd birthday after having been shot with a shotgun by her son, 38 year old Curtis Elliot. He then went back into the apartment the two had shared where he killed himself with a gun. Witnesses say they saw Linda running down the stairs, calling for help and saying she'd been shot. "Then the man shot her again and disappeared." According to a Salt Lake County Sheriff's spokesman, Linda had earlier in the day informed her son that she was transferring jobs and was moving. She had told her son he would also have to move because she would not sign a lease for the apartment for him. Detectives weren't sure if that incident sparked the shooting but suspect it may have been a launching point for an argument between the two.</p> <p><i>Sources: Deseret Morning News, March 10 & 12, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, March 11, 2006; KTVX.com, March 10, 2006.</i></p>	<p>Holladay, Salt Lake County</p>
<p>March 9, 2006 #5</p>	<p>Curtis Elliott, Age 38, Perpetrator Suicide</p> <p>See the immediately preceding entry.</p>	<p>Holladay, Salt Lake County</p>

<p>March 25, 2006 #6</p>	<p>Nicole Speirs, Age 22, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>In the very early morning hours of March 25th, Walter Smith called Tooele police to the home he shared with Nicole. He told the officers he and the couple's twin sons had arrived home at about 1:00 a.m. from a trip to Idaho. He put the twins to bed then heard water running in the bathroom. Smith told police he found Nicole dead, face down and under water in the bathtub with the water still running. Water had not escaped the tub because of an overflow drain. According to court documents, the state medical examiner was unable to rule the death either an accident or a homicide. Police kept the case open but inactive.</p> <p>On Dec. 4, Smith arrived at the V.A. hospital, "saying he needed to clear his conscience of some things," said Deputy Tooele County Attorney Gary Searle. From the hospital, Smith telephoned an uncle. Suspecting the matter concerned Speirs, the uncle asked Smith what he wanted to discuss and Smith said, "I did it." When officers of the Tooele Police Department arrived at the hospital and</p> <p>questioned Smith, he told them, "I am responsible for Nicole Speirs' death." When asked whether it was an accident or if something else happened, he said, "Something else happened." The Tooele County Attorney's Office has charged Smith with Murder, a first degree felony. Trial is pending in the Third Judicial District Court in Tooele County.</p> <p><i>Sources: KSL.com, December 12, 2006; Tooele Transcript Bulletin, December 12, 2006; Deseret Morning News, December 13, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, December 13, 2006.</i></p>	<p>Tooele, Tooele County</p>
<p>April 1, 2006 #7</p>	<p>Cassandra Bryan, 46, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>Cassandra was shot in the head multiple times by her husband, Stephen Walker. Around 8:00 p.m. police were called to the couple's residence by a friend of Walker. Earlier in the evening Walker had called the friend and told him he wanted to commit suicide. A while later he called the friend again and told him not to bother, that he - Walker - had taken care of the problem. The friend, concerned for Walker's safety, went to the couple's residence and found Walker sitting in the living room and Cassandra's body in the kitchen. Walker refused to cooperate with police during their investigation at the crime scene. A 9mm handgun was recovered. No apparent motive for the killing was discovered. The Salt Lake District Attorney's Office has charged Walker with Murder, a first degree felony. Following a preliminary held on August 11, 2006, in the Third Judicial District Court, Walker was bound over to stand trial for Cassandra's murder. Trial in the Third Judicial District Court is scheduled to begin on January 30, 2007.</p> <p><i>Sources: ABC4.com, April 2, 2006; Deseret Morning News, April 4 & 9, 2006; KUTV.com, April 2, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, April 3 & 18 and August 12, 2006</i></p>	<p>Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County</p>

<p>April 8, 2006 #8</p>	<p>Antoinette Corum, 59, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>Antoinette was allegedly strangled by her boyfriend, Lanny Wayman. According to family members, the two had been living together off and on, most recently in the Cedar City area, for several years. Wayman has a lengthy and well documented history of domestic violence. He was convicted of domestic violence charges three times from 1997 to 2002 in Las Vegas courts, including at least one felony count. In 2001, he was charged with felony battery constituting domestic violence against Antoinette. The following year, Wayman pleaded guilty to felony attempted battery constituting domestic violence. He was sentenced to a maximum of 32 months in prison with a minimum parole eligibility of one year. According to Cedar City neighbors of the couple, there had been a loud argument between them on April 7th. Things then got quiet and the next morning Wayman got into his motor home and left. According to a police probable cause affidavit, between 6:30 and 7 p.m. on April 8th, Wayman called his brother who lives in East Carbon and said he had killed his girlfriend, Toni, and that he was going to kill himself. The brother called a third sibling and they met Wayman at the motor home near the junction of US Hwy. 6 and Horse Canyon Road. Wayman had a .22-caliber rifle, which the brothers were able to get away from him. They then persuaded Wayman to go with them to a gas station to buy alcohol, where the brothers called the Emery County Sheriff's Department. Deputies arrested him at the station about 9 p.m. The Emery County Attorney's Office charged Wayman with Murder, a first degree felony, and Desecration of a Human Body, a third degree felony. In June, Wayman entered a plea of guilty to a lesser charge of second degree felony Manslaughter, and to Desecration of a Corpse and Possession of a Firearm by a Restricted Person, both third degree felonies. On June 21, 2006, Wayman was sentenced by the Seventh Judicial District Court to serve a term of up to 20 years in the Utah State Prison.</p> <p><i>Sources: Salt Lake Tribune, April 10, 12 & 21 and June 22, 2006; Deseret Morning News, April 10, 11, 13 & 21, 2006.</i></p>	<p>Horse Canyon area, Emery County</p>
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<p>April 19, 2006 #9</p>	<p>Arthur B. Henderson, 38, Domestic Violence Related Suicide</p> <p>Natalie Henderson was home on the morning of Jan. 27 when she says Art Henderson called and asked which of the couple's five children were with her. She told him three were and, answering further questions, said she was not going to work and that her boyfriend, Craig Trimble, was not at work, either. "Is he there?" she said Henderson asked. "Yes," she replied. "Good," Henderson said, and then he hung up. "I knew we were in trouble," Natalie Henderson told police. "I had fled the house a few times before, but he had always called from his parents' house in Highland. I didn't know he was on his cell phone and so close by." What followed was unlike anything the usually quiet community of Lehi had ever seen. As Natalie and Craig were driving out of their driveway, Henderson pulled in. He then chased them through residential streets as Craig drove and frantically called 911 for help. The chase ended when Henderson, a former Lehi police officer, forced Natalie's car off the road and then began shooting at them. Craig was shot three times, but was able to crawl to safety in a nearby house. One of Henderson's rounds went through the windshield of a nearby car, narrowly missing the driver. Natalie, caught in the car, was unable to leave. Her children were also in the car. Henderson spoke briefly with Natalie, including an inquiry as to whether she was shot. He then turned his gun toward Lehi officers who had arrived. The Lehi officers opened fire. Henderson suffered two gunshot wounds, neither being fatal.</p> <p>In 2000 Henderson was hired as an officer in the Lehi City Police Department. In 2004, however, he fought with a former friend, was charged with assault and was fired from the police department. During that same period, Natalie left him and eventually formed a close relationship with Craig. In 2005 Henderson was charged with Assault and Terroristic Threat, based upon an altercation with Craig. Also in that year, Natalie filed for divorce and filed for a protective order against Henderson. Henderson was convicted of the assault on Craig. Despite all that, in December of 2005, he again confronted Craig and was again charged with assault. Less than two months later, the chase through Lehi streets happened.</p> <p>The Utah County Attorney's Office charged Henderson with five first degree felony counts of Attempted Aggravated Murder. He was also charged with Aggravated Assault, Criminal Mischief and three counts of Unlawful Discharge of a Firearm, all third-degree felonies.</p> <p>Henderson remained in jail, unable to make the \$250,000 bail set by the court. He was held in solitary confinement in the maximum security section of the Salt Lake County Jail. On March 31, 2006, he appeared in the Fourth Judicial District Court and waived a preliminary hearing. On April 20, 2006, Henderson was found dead in his cell, he having hanged himself with a bed sheet.</p> <p><i>Sources: Deseret Morning News, January 2, 28 & 31, February 3 & 6, April 1, 12 & 21, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, January 28, February 6, 7 & 22, April 1, 12 & 20, 2006; KUTV.com, April 20, 2006.</i></p>	<p>Lehi, Utah County</p>
<p>April 16, 2006 #10</p>	<p>Jose Raul Cruz, 25, Domestic Violence Related Death</p> <p>Jose was pronounced dead at Dixie Regional Medical Center after falling from a moving vehicle. According to a police press release, Jose and Gladys Gonzalez, his girlfriend, were reportedly involved in a verbal domestic dispute prior to the accident. Gonzalez reportedly attempted to leave, getting into a Ford pickup that had running boards along the sides of the vehicle. Jose reportedly jumped into the bed of the truck and then climbed down onto the running board as Gonzalez drove out of the parking lot. According to newspaper accounts, Gonzalez stopped a few blocks down the road and asked Cruz to get off the truck. After Cruz reportedly refused, Gonzalez allegedly again began to move her pickup. At that point, Jose reportedly fell off the truck and struck his head on the pavement. Gonzalez was taken into custody and booked into Washington County Correctional Facility on a charge of leaving the scene of an injury accident.</p>	<p>St. George, Washington County</p>

	<p>Following a review of the evidence in the case, the Washington County Attorney's Office determined that no charges would be filed against Gonzalez. That office determined there was no evidence showing she intended to throw Jose from the pickup or in any other way injure him. In fact, all evidence suggested she was traveling at a slow rate of speed (5-6 MPH) while Jose was holding onto the truck. She even stopped at one point to try to convince him to get off.</p> <p><i>Sources: The Spectrum, April 17 & 18, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, April 18, 2006; Washington County Attorney's Office.</i></p>	
<p>April 27, 2006 #11</p>	<p>Moises Santuario, Age 43, Domestic Violence Related Suicide</p> <p>A 45-minute SWAT stand off ended after West Jordan and Sandy police officers entered a house and found Moises, with whom they had been attempting to make contact, dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The incident apparently started with a domestic dispute between Moises and his wife around 9:00 a.m. The wife got out of the house and called police, telling them that her husband had a gun and was threatening to commit suicide. By 10:30 a.m. a SWAT team had arrived at the house and had surrounded it. The team was unable to make contact with Moises. At approximately 11:00 a.m., the SWAT team forced its way into the home where Moises' dead body was found in a bedroom. Police said he had used a handgun to kill himself.</p> <p><i>Sources: KSL.com, April 27, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, April 27, 2006; West Jordan City Police Department.</i></p>	<p>West Jordan, Salt Lake County</p>
<p>May 7, 2006 #12</p>	<p>John Matthew Ruiz, Age 44, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>John was shot and killed by his wife, Vickie Marie Ruiz, age 43, very early on this Sunday morning. At 3:16 a.m., Brigham City dispatch received a 911 call from Vickie Ruiz, saying that someone had been shot and requesting an ambulance. When paramedics arrived at the couple's home, they found 44-year-old John, bleeding from a wound to his chest, inside a motor home parked next to the couple's home. He was transported to a hospital where doctors later pronounced him dead.</p> <p>Police said the shooting of John occurred in the motor home, where a party had been going on. According to a police probable cause affidavit, Ruiz entered the motor home and found her husband having sex with another woman. Another man was also in the motor home. Ruiz returned to their house, got a handgun, went back to the motor home and shot her husband once in the chest. She then called 911 and "indicated that though she had shot her husband, she had not shot the other woman, though she should have done so," the affidavit said. Family members told police the couple was having problems. Police reported having been called to the residence once, two years ago.</p> <p>The Box Elder Attorney's Office charged Ruiz with Murder, a first degree felony. On September 11, 2006, Ruiz entered a plea of guilty to an amended charge of Manslaughter, a second degree felony. On November 21, 2006, Ruiz was sentenced by the First Judicial District Court to serve a term of 0-5 years in the Utah State Prison. The charge of second degree felony Manslaughter to which Ruiz plead could have resulted in a term of 1-15 years imprisonment. At sentencing, however, the judge, pursuant a defense motion which was not opposed by the state, reduced the offense to a third degree felony for purposes of sentencing. Such reductions are allowed, at the court's discretion, by a provision of the Utah State Criminal Code. The reduction was strongly opposed by the couple's children, all of whom argued for a lengthy prison sentence.</p> <p><i>Sources: Standard Examiner, May 8 & 9, 2006; ABC4.com, May 7, 2006; Deseret Morning News, May 8 & 9, 2006; KSL.com, May 7 & 8, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, May 8 & 9 and November 21 & 22, 2006; Records of the First Judicial District Court.</i></p>	<p>Brigham City, Box Elder County</p>

<p>June 24, 2006 #13</p>	<p>Ryan Todd Oman, Age 21, Domestic Violence Related Suicide</p> <p>Oman shot and killed himself with a handgun, ending a nearly two hour standoff with Ogden City police. At about 2:15 p.m., police received a call informing them that Oman had picked up his former girlfriend, Autumn Amber Lee, and had left with her. The person who made the report was unsure whether Autumn had left willingly.</p> <p>Because the District Court, at Autumn’s request, had recently issued an <i>ex parte</i> protective order against Oman, and because Oman was also a suspect in an unrelated shooting that had taken place in Ogden on June 13, 2006, police immediately responded. Police soon spotted the vehicle in which Autumn and Oman were riding, with Autumn driving. Because of Oman’s record and a fear of potential violence, police yelled commands to the occupants of the car, telling both to get out. Autumn refused to get out, claiming she was not a hostage but informing police that Oman had a gun and that he was threatening suicide. She told police she was afraid he would kill himself if she got out of the car.</p> <p>A police SWAT team was called to the scene and a police negotiator made cell phone contact with Oman. According to a police spokesman, he appeared to be on the verge of surrendering on several occasions. Then, without warning, while he was still on the phone with the negotiator, Oman suddenly put the gun to his head and pulled the trigger. Autumn, against whom Oman was pressed, was injured as a result of the shooting and was taken to a local hospital.</p> <p>Oman had a lengthy history of illegal and violent behavior. Only a few days before his death he had been placed on the state’s “Most Wanted” list. He had a long history of dealings with police, the spokesman said. In addition to being wanted in connection with the June 14th Ogden shooting – in which a 25 year old man was shot in the jaw – he was also wanted on a minimum of three warrants: one for an unspecified felony, one for burglary and aggravated assault, and one for parole violation. He was legally prohibited from carrying a firearm. Oman was also, according to police, known to be involved in the illegal drug community.</p> <p><i>Sources: Deseret Morning News, June 25, 2006; KSL.com, June 24, 2006; KUTV.com, June 24, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, June 25, 2006; Standard Examiner, June 25, 2006.</i></p>	<p>Ogden, Weber County</p>
<p>July 2, 2006 #14</p>	<p>Larry Van Camp, Age 57, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>A day long argument over air conditioning ended in the death of two people, leaving their bodies to be discovered by their children. Investigators with the Tooele County Sheriff’s Office say they are at a loss for words at how a seemingly inconsequential argument escalated into a murder-suicide, leaving three children traumatized and without parents.</p> <p>Larry Van Camp and Michelle Carter had lived together for about three years. Also residing in the home were Carter's 16-year-old son and Larry's 14-year-old son and 10-year-old daughter. According to a spokesman for the Tooele County Sheriff’s Office, the couple was arguing over a part needed to fix the air conditioner on the large truck Larry drove for a living. Each person apparently thought the other was the last to have the part. “They weren’t yelling or screaming,” the spokesman said. “They were just nagging at each other most of the day.” Between 7:45 and 8:00 p.m., while the two were still working on the truck, Carter, using a .357 caliber handgun, shot Larry multiple times in the back of the neck. She then turned the gun on herself.</p> <p>The three children were watching movies in a relative’s RV parked some 20 yards from the scene of the shooting. The 14 year old boy was just leaving the RV when the shots were fired. He was first on the scene and found the bodies. The Sheriff’s spokesman said, “(The kids) are not doing too well. They’re taking it pretty rough.” Detectives do not believe that either alcohol or drugs were</p>	<p>Stockton, Tooele County</p>

	involved. So far as local law enforcement is aware, there was no history of domestic violence between the couple. <i>Sources: Tooele Transcript Bulletin on-line, July 3, 2006; Deseret Morning News, July 3 & 4, 2006; KSL.com, July 3, 2006; KUTV.com, July 4, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, July 4, 2006.</i>	
July 2, 2006 #15	Michelle Carter, Age 37, Perpetrator Suicide See the immediately preceding entry.	Stockton, Tooele County
July 3, 2006 #16	Samantha Mikesell, Age 16, Dating Relationship Homicide In October of 2005, Samantha met 39 year old Walter White. Over the ensuing months, according to court documents, a relationship ensued. White had sexual relations with Samantha and showed her pornographic web sites. White had been listed on Utah's sex offender registry since 1996, when he pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor charge of Lewdness Involving a Child and was sentenced to six days in jail and a year's probation. On Sunday evening, July 2 nd , White met Samantha at her place of employment after she got off work. He then drove up Mueller Canyon, east of Bountiful where, according to prosecutors, the two intended to fulfill a mutual suicide pact. White provided prescription drugs and alcohol which both individuals consumed. Many hours later White woke up and found Samantha's body. He tried to conceal the act by dragging her body some distance to a more secluded place and by hiding some of the pill bottles. Police found White wandering in the canyon a day later. A search for Samantha resulted in the discovery of her body two days later. White was initially charged by the Davis County Attorney's Office with Child Abuse or Neglect, a second-degree felony, and third-degree felony counts of Unlawful Sexual Activity with a Minor, Unlawful Sexual Conduct with a 16-year-old, Obstructing Justice and Abuse or Desecration of a Corpse. In September, following a lengthy investigation and receipt of the Medical Examiner's Report, the charges were amended to include Child Abuse Homicide, a second degree felony. On November 2, 2006, White entered pleas of guilty to the Child Abuse Homicide charge and to charges of Unlawful Sexual Activity With a 16-year-old, Dealing in Harmful Material to a Minor and Obstructing Justice, all third-degree felonies. On December 20, 2006, White was sentenced by the Second Judicial District Court to a term of up to 20 years in the Utah State Prison. <i>Sources: Deseret Morning News, July 6 & 11, September 10 and December 15, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, July 16 and November 2, 2006.</i>	Bountiful, Davis County
July 29, 2006 #17	Martin James Sessions, Age 49, Cohabitant Homicide Martin was allegedly shot and killed by his wife, Carol Elizabeth Sessions. At 11:20 a.m., Sessions placed a call to the Millard County Sheriff's dispatch and said she had shot her husband. When deputies arrived at the home, Sessions directed them to the back yard where they found Martin's dead body. He had been shot several times with a handgun. The Millard County Sheriff's investigation determined that the killing had taken place inside a bedroom of the residence and that Sessions had then moved the body to the back yard. Prior to calling dispatch, Sessions called a close male friend and told him she had killed her husband. The friend told Sessions to call law enforcement immediately, and that if she didn't he would. Shortly after receiving that call, the friend called dispatch and reported the shooting. At about the same time Sessions also called 9-1-1 and reported that she had killed her husband. Neither the investigation nor Sessions' statements indicated that any fight or altercation took place between Martin and Sessions immediately prior to the shooting. Millard County Sheriff Department records, however, show that deputies from that office had previously responded to several emergency calls from Sessions regarding alleged acts of violence committed against her by Martin. One of those incidents resulted in a charge of domestic violence related Assault being filed against Martin, to which he plead guilty. The Millard County Attorney's Office has charged Sessions with Murder, a first degree felony,	Delta, Millard County

	<p>Obstruction of Justice, a second degree felony and Desecration of a Human Corpse, a third degree felony. A preliminary hearing has been scheduled for January 8, 2007, in the Fourth Judicial District Court.</p> <p><i>Sources: Salt Lake Tribune, July 31, August 8 and September 3, 2006; Deseret Morning News, July 31 and August 14, 2006; Millard County Chronicle Progress, August 8, 2006.</i></p>	
<p>August 4, 2006 #18</p>	<p>Laura Susan (Umpfrey) Hauck, Age 50, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>By Monday, August 7th, family members hadn't heard from Laura or her 18 year old son Jeremy Hauck (Hauck) for days. They'd called and knocked on their door with no response. Finally, they called police. Officers arrived at the condo shared by the two and got no answer at the door. Noticing a window open on the upper level, officers used a ladder to get inside. There, according to a police spokesman, they found blood on a mattress inside of the house. "Something had been dragged – there was blood – to one of those small chest freezers." Inside the freezer, forced into a fetal position, they discovered a body. It was frozen solid. There was no sign of Hauck nor of Laura's automobile. Neither had been seen since Friday. After several days of thawing, the Medical Examiner was able to remove the body from the freezer and identify it as Laura's. She had been shot twice in the head and her throat had been slit.</p> <p>On August 10th, Hauck was discovered in a Missoula, Montana motel and was arrested by Missoula police without incident. He had several firearms in his hotel room when arrested. Neither the police investigation nor family members have determined a possible motive for the killing. Family members say Laura was devoted to Hauck, that he was her entire life. They said Hauck was a 4.0 student and a high achiever in other areas. They also said of Hauck, however, that he lacks social skills and has few friends. Family members said he doesn't interact well with people. They described him as a very quiet person, and they basically said he could not function on his own out in the real world. He would need someone to help him.</p> <p>The Davis County Attorney's Office charged Hauck with Murder, a first degree felony, and Theft of his mother's automobile, a second degree felony. He waived extradition from Montana. Following a preliminary hearing held in the Second Judicial District Court on September 25, 2006, Hauck was bound over to stand trial on the Murder charge. The charge of Auto Theft was dismissed. On October 12, 2006, Hauck entered a plea of not guilty to the charge. Trial is pending in the Second Judicial District Court.</p> <p><i>Sources: KSL.com, August 7 & 8, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, August 8, 9, 10 & 11 & 15, September 25 and October 12, 2006; Deseret Morning News, August 8, 9, 10, 11, 15 & 16 and September 26, 2006.</i></p>	<p>Bountiful, Davis County</p>
<p>August 14, 2006 #19</p>	<p>Monte Clynn Moss, Age 56, Domestic Violence Related Suicide</p> <p>At approximately 7:30 p.m., Moss drove to his estranged girlfriend's residence and, in front of the girlfriend and other witnesses, shot himself. Moss had previously lived with the girlfriend at the residence but she had recently asked him to leave. The girlfriend told officers that she had talked with the man earlier in the day and that he was "drunk and depressed," so she had asked him to return the .40 caliber gun. The girlfriend and a neighbor were talking on the porch of the residence when Moss drove into the driveway. The girlfriend saw that Moss had a gun so she told the neighbor to get inside the house. Moss got out of his car, put the barrel of the gun in his mouth and pulled the trigger. The neighbor's 10 year old daughter was outside and witnessed the death. Police were immediately called. When they arrived they found Moss' body lying on the ground with a .40 caliber handgun lying next to it. There were five live rounds in the gun and police found one spent shell casing on the ground.</p> <p><i>Sources: ABC-4.com, August 14 & 15, 2006; Standard Examiner, August 17, 2006; Roy City Police Department.</i></p>	<p>Roy, Weber County</p>

<p>August 30, 2006 #20</p>	<p>Tina Rene Evans, Age 42, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>At about 8:00 a.m. Tooele County Dispatch received a telephone call. In a matter of fact tone John Dean Bevan told the dispatcher:</p> <p>"Yeah, I gotta report a murder."</p> <p>"What's going on?" the dispatcher asked.</p> <p>"I killed her."</p> <p>"You killed who?"</p> <p>"My girlfriend."</p> <p>"How'd you do it?"</p> <p>"Stabbed."</p> <p>"When'd you do that?"</p> <p>"A couple hours ago."</p> <p>As the conversation continued, the dispatcher asked Bevan why he did it. He replied,</p> <p>"I don't know. We was breaking up . . . Told me last night she was leaving, and I lost it."</p> <p>The dispatcher continued to talk to Bevan, holding him on the line until officers of the Tooele County Sheriff's Department arrived at the scene. Upon entering the residence they found Tina's body lying on her bed. She had been fatally stabbed in the torso. A knife was found nearby. Other than the stab wounds, police found no signs of a struggle. Bevan had a number of superficial stab and slash wounds which police determined to have been self inflicted. He was taken to a hospital and released into police custody two days later. Tina was the mother of two sons, ages 17 and 8 and a 15 year old daughter. According to police, all three of the children and two friends were in the basement when the attack occurred. The 17 year old son, however, had already left for work before police arrived. Until that time the children were unaware what had happened. The 8 year old boy told the investigating officers he had heard his mother scream at about 2:00 a.m. He went to his mother's bedroom door to see if everything was OK, but the door was locked and he went back to bed. The Tooele County Attorney's Office has charged Bevan with Murder, a first degree felony, Domestic Violence in the Presence of a Child and Child Abuse, both third degree felonies. The Third Judicial District Court in Tooele County, at defense counsel's request, has ordered that a mental evaluation of Bevan be performed. On October 18, 2006, Bevan waived his right to a preliminary and was bound over for trial in the Third Judicial District Court. A specific trial date is pending.</p> <p><i>Sources: Tooele Transcript Bulletin, August 31 & October 19, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, August 31, September 1, 2, 6 & 7 and October 19, 2006; Deseret Morning News, August 31 and September 2, 2006.</i></p>	<p>Stansbury Park, Tooele County</p>
<p>September 16, 2006 #21</p>	<p>Grace Erno, Age 80, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>Grace and Robert had completed their wills and even made their own funeral arrangements. The pair then drove 100 miles north from their home in St. George and turned onto a dirt road about two miles northeast of Beaver. It was there on a sagebrush flat, Beaver County Sheriff's Deputies say, that Robert, using a .380 caliber handgun, shot his wife and then turned the gun on himself. The couple was found by the owner of the field. It is unknown why the couple drove all the way to Beaver. They had no apparent connection with the area. Grace and Robert had been married for more than 60 years. By all accounts, the couple's marriage had been happy. During the investigation, Beaver County Sheriff's Deputies learned that both individuals had suffered with a variety of medical problems over the past six to seven years. Recently, Robert had learned that he had some life-threatening medical problems. A Beaver County Sheriff's</p>	<p>Beaver County</p>

	<p>spokesman said of the couple's death, "They got all their personal things in order and just did it."</p> <p><i>Sources: Deseret Morning News, September 19, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, September 19, 2006.</i></p>	
September 16, 2006 #22	<p>Robert Erno, Age 82, Perpetrator Suicide</p> <p>See the immediately preceding entry.</p>	Beaver County
September 26, 2006 #23	<p>Maria Revas, Age 32, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>Maria knew of her estranged husband's, Jamie Lopez, Sr's., jealous temper. She told police about it when they responded to a family fight at her home on July 26, 2006. "(Jamie) was accusing (Maria) of having many boyfriends because she works in construction with men," a St. George Police Officer wrote in a police report. That jealousy apparently increased in the weeks after the report was written. On the day of Maria's death, suspicions of philandering led Lopez to make several calls to Maria, accusing her of cheating on him. He also purchase a six inch fillet knife. At about 10:00 p.m. Lopez parked at a location about five blocks from Maria's residence, walked there, barged through the back door and repeatedly stabbed her. The couple's 16 year old son and two other individuals heard the ruckus from an adjoining room. They pulled Lopez away from Maria and restrained him until police arrived. Maria died on the way to the hospital. Under questioning by police, Lopez said he believed Maria was having affairs. "There is no evidence of that," said a police spokesman. "Only his suspicions." The Washington County Attorney's Office has charged Lopez with Aggravated Murder, a capital felony, Aggravated Burglary, a first degree felony, Aggravated Assault and Child Abuse, both third degree felonies. On May 21, 2007, the state amended the charge to Murder, a first degree felony, and dismissed the other counts. Lopez entered a plea to the amended charge and was immediately sentenced to serve a term of 15 years to life in the Utah State Prison.</p> <p><i>Sources: Deseret Morning News, September 28 & 29, 2006, May 23, 2007; Salt Lake Tribune, September 28 & 29, 2006, May 23, 2007; Washington County Attorney's Office; Records of the Fifth Judicial District Court.</i></p>	St. George, Washington County
October 3, 2006 #24	<p>Jamie L. Vance, Age 21, Dating Relationship Homicide</p> <p>Jamie had been trying to break up with Anoulack Bphanphonsavat for some time. On the evening before her death, she had returned all of Bphanphonsavat's possessions in what was supposed to be the end of a lengthy dating relationship and a drawn out breakup, according to police. Then, at about 9:00 a.m. on the 3rd, Bphanphonsavat entered Jamie's home and shot and killed her before turning the gun on himself, ending his own life. Immediately prior to their death Jamie was on the phone with a friend. The friend heard Jamie scream, "He's in the house," after which the telephone went dead. The friend called Jamie's mother, who called police. The mother and police arrived at the house at the same time, where they found the two bodies at the bottom of the stairs. A shotgun was the weapon used.</p> <p>The day's tragic events began at 4:30 a.m. when Jamie's mother noticed Bphanphonsavat outside the house, near the garage. The mother told him to leave. He responded that he was there to protect Jamie from stalkers. He also asked to use the phone, claiming his car was broken down. Mrs. Vance allowed Bphanphonsavat to use the telephone but when he asked if he could remain in the house until assistance arrived she told him, "No." At about 6:30 a.m. the mother left for work and noticed that Bphanphonsavat's car was still parked across the street but she did not see him. She assumed he was still waiting for a ride. During their investigation police found no sign of a forced entry. They suspect Bphanphonsavat may have stolen a house key while he was using the telephone. Police report no record of violence between Jamie and Bphanphonsavat, but neighbors said there had been problems earlier in the week with Bphanphonsavat's friends showing up at Jamie's residence, and also causing some vandalism at</p>	West Jordan, Salt Lake County

	<p>either her school or her mother's work. Police could not substantiate those reports.</p> <p><i>Sources: KSL.com, October 3, 2006; Deseret Morning News, October 4, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, October 4, 2006.</i></p>	
<p>October 3, 2006 #25</p>	<p>Anoulack Bphanphonsavat, Age 22, Perpetrator Suicide See the immediately preceding entry.</p>	<p>West Jordan, Salt Lake County</p>
<p>October 12, 2006 #26</p>	<p>Catherine A. Adams, Age 37, Cohabitant Homicide On November 18, 2006, Richfield Police were called to the condominium rented by Catherine and John Adams (hereafter "Adams"). Their landlord had not received the rent for the month of November and he had been unable to contact either of the couple. After repeated knocking failed to bring anyone to the door, police entered the dwelling. There they found Catherine's fully clothed body on the bed. She had suffered two gunshot wounds, one to the chest and one to the head. Adams' body was on the floor next to the bed, also having died as a result of an apparent self inflicted gunshot wound. A .380 caliber handgun was found next to Adams' body. Police also found two notes, one from each person. Catherine's note said simply that she had "problems" but did not give further detail. Police found no evidence that Catherine had died unwillingly. Adams' note said he was having health problems. He did not specify what illnesses he might have had but said he had vomited, said a Richfield police spokesman. Adams' note also said he was going to be with a person whom investigators believe is dead. "Basically [the note said] he was in a better place," the spokesman said. The notes also left phone numbers for relatives in Florida. Based upon the contents of the notes and upon the decomposition of the bodies, police believe the deaths occurred on October 12, 2006.</p> <p>The deaths are puzzling to police for a number of reasons. The couple had lived in Richfield for a little more than a year, having moved there from Florida. Police do not know what brought them to Richfield or why they were there and do not know whether they had jobs. Neighbors reported the couple had kept to themselves and seldom ventured outside their apartment. Adams had been an attorney, but had resigned from the Florida State Bar in 1994. Catherine hadn't seen her mother in 17 years. Police said they are aware of no criminal history on either individual nor any calls of trouble involving the couple.</p> <p><i>Sources: Richfield Reaper, November 21 & 28, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, November 29, 2006; Deseret Morning News, November 28, 2006.</i></p>	<p>Richfield, Sevier County</p>
<p>October 12, 2006 #27</p>	<p>John W. Adams, Age 46, Perpetrator Suicide See the immediately preceding entry.</p>	<p>Richfield, Sevier County</p>
<p>October 16, 2006 #28</p>	<p>Tonja Marie Nash, Age 40, Cohabitant Homicide The 8-year-old boy ran out of his home and into the cold Monday night, his shrill scream for help echoing down the street as his mother's boyfriend battered her inside. His 11-year-old brother already had escaped to a neighbor's house and was hysterical, talking with a 911 dispatcher just before 8 p.m. Neighbors said when Tonja Marie Nash ran from the house she didn't get far. Keith Lamont Morton pointed a shotgun and fired into her back. Morton then aimed at the fallen Tonja's head and pulled the trigger a second time before kicking her motionless body and walking back inside. All of this was watched by a horrified neighbor and her 7-year-old daughter from the window of their house across the street. Following the shooting the two boys ran to their mother's bleeding body. Tonja was still alive when police arrived but she was pronounced dead when she arrived at a hospital.</p> <p>Police say Tonja moved to Orem from Arizona in 2005, after meeting Morton on the Internet. This, according to police and court records, was not the first instance of violence by Morton against Tonja. On Thanksgiving Day in 2005, Orem police responded to a 911 call hang-up. Morton had tried to strangle Tonja,</p>	<p>Orem, Utah County</p>

	<p>then disabled the phone when she called for help. He was charged with Assault and Interruption of a Communication Device, both class B misdemeanors. He entered pleas in abeyance and was ordered to attend domestic violence counseling. Counseling service reports filed with the court say Morton was making "good progress" and had "shared his feelings about his aggressive behavior with the group and has invited his girlfriend to attend group with him." The court had scheduled a review of that case on November 28, 2006.</p> <p>The Utah County Attorney's Office charged Morton with Aggravated Murder, a capital felony. On March 8, 2007, Morton plead guilty to the charge of Aggravated Murder. With the concurrence of Tonja's sons and family members, the state agreed not request either the death penalty or a sentence of life without the possibility of parole. On April 19, 2007, Morton was sentenced by the 4th Judicial District Court to serve a term of 20 years to life in the Utah State Prison and to pay restitution in the amount of \$18,176.</p> <p><i>Sources: Salt Lake Tribune, October 17, 18 & 24, 2006, March 9 and April 20, 2007; Deseret Morning News, October 17 & 18, 2006, March 9, 2007; Daily Herald, October 17 & 18, 2006; KSL.com, October 16 & 17, 2006; ABC4.com, October 16 & 17, 2006.</i></p>	
<p>November 13, 2006 #29</p>	<p>Shuree Lawson Baarsma, Age 35, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>In the early morning hours of November 13, 2006, West Valley City police responded to a call that a woman was in distress. Media reports differ as to what the reported problem was and who made the call to police. Some reports indicate that Shuree's live-in boyfriend, Curtis J. Ellis, called police and that he was at the residence when police arrived. Other reports say Shuree's son told police that she and Ellis were "fighting" at about 1:00 a.m. when he left the apartment and that when he returned just before 6:00 a.m. Shuree was dead and that Ellis was gone. All media stories are consistent in saying that Ellis was alone with Shuree at about the time of her injury and death. During their on-scene investigation police found no indication of fatal injury to Shuree and reported the death as a possible heart attack which may have been caused by a drug overdose. An autopsy conducted by the Utah Medical Examiner's Office, however, revealed trauma to the neck consistent with strangulation and that Shuree had died of asphyxiation. No other injuries that normally go along with a strangulation, such as injuries suffered trying to fight off such an attack, were found, either by police or during the autopsy. The Medical Examiner determined Shuree was under the influence of drugs at the time of her death and would have been unable to defend herself from being strangled.</p> <p>Based upon the police investigation and the autopsy results, the Salt Lake District Attorney charged Ellis with Murder, a first degree felony. In February of 2007, Ellis was arrested in Oklahoma on the Utah warrant. As of April 10, 2007, Ellis remained in custody in Oklahoma while he fought extradition to Utah. He has been unable to post the \$1 million bail set by the court.</p> <p><i>Sources: Salt Lake Tribune, November 17, 2006, February 10 & 11 and March 5, 2007; Deseret Morning News, February 10 & 15, 2007; Records of the Third Judicial District Court.</i></p>	<p>West Valley City Salt Lake County</p>

COHABITANT HOMICIDES: 15
 PERPETRATOR SUICIDES: 5
 DATING RELATIONSHIP HOMICIDES: 2
 DATING VIOLENCE RELATED SUICIDE: 1
 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED HOMICIDES: 1
 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED SUICIDE: 4
 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED DEATH: 1

TOTAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED DEATHS IN UTAH DURING 2006: 29

NUMBER OF DV RELATED DEATHS CAUSED BY THE USE OF A FIREARM: 20
 A TOTAL OF 16 CHILDREN WERE PRESENT AT 7 OF THE ABOVE LISTED DEATHS.

1. Under Utah Chapter 77, Title 36, Section 2.1 Domestic Violence Means

- Any criminal offense involving

- violence

- physical harm

- threat** of violence or physical harm

Any attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit a criminal offense involving

- violence or physical harm

When committed by one **cohabitant** against another

Under Utah Chapter 77, Title 36, Section 1 Domestic Violence also means commission or attempt to commit any of the following offenses by one cohabitant against another

aggravated assault

assault

criminal homicide

harassment

telephone harassment

kidnapping, child kidnapping or aggravated kidnapping

mayhem (mutilation of a body part)

sexual offenses

- unlawful sexual intercourse

- rape

object rape

sodomy-forcible sodomy

forcible sexual abuse

aggravated sexual assault

sexual exploitation of a minor

stalking

unlawful detention

violation of a protective order

offenses against property (theft is not a domestic violence offense)

possession of a deadly weapon with intent to assault

discharge of a firearm from a vehicle, near a highway, or in the direction of any person, building or vehicle

disorderly conduct if conviction result of plea negotiation from an original DV offense

child witnessing DV child abuse

any other criminal offense involving violence or physical harm

2. Under Utah Title 30, Chapter 6, Section 1: the Cohabitant Abuse Act, a cohabitant is defined as:

(2) "Cohabitant" means an emancipated person pursuant to Section 15-2-1 or a person who is

16 years of age or older who:

- (a) is or was a spouse of the other party;
- (b) is or was living as if a spouse of the other party;
- (c) is related by blood or marriage to the other party;
- (d) has one or more children in common with the other party;
- (e) is the biological parent of the other party's unborn child; or
- (f) resides or has resided in the same residence as the other party.

(3) Notwithstanding Subsection (2), "cohabitant" does not include:

- (a) The relationship of natural parent, adoptive parent, or step-parent to a minor; or
- (b) The relationship between natural, adoptive, step, or foster siblings who are under 18 years of age.