

There are a number of Utah laws, rules, policies, and contracts that address victim advocate training including but not exclusive: [HB53](#), [rule 512](#), [HB 177](#), [Utah Code](#), [Confidential Communications for Sexual Assault Act](#), [Confidential Communications for Institutional Advocacy Services Act](#), [VOCA/VAWA/SASP](#), and [DHHS](#). Please review to ensure you are getting the training that is required for your place of employment.

Utah Victim Assistance Academy (UVAA)

Hosted by: [Utah Office for Victims of Crime](#)

This forty-hour training qualifies participants to provide direct services to all crime victims in Utah. The curriculum follows standards set by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and covers a wide range of topics including 16 hours of foundational training and 24 hours of crime specific training. It is also an approved training for the National Advocate Credentialing Program® (NACP)

UVAA is provided three times a year. January, May, October. There is no fee or registration. Since this training focuses on all crime categories it is best suited for system based advocates or community based services that serve all victims of crime.

Core Advocacy Training (CAT)

Hosted by: [Utah Domestic Violence Coalition](#) (UDVC)

Our 40-hour Core Advocacy Training (CAT) covers a wide range of core topics specific to domestic/intimate partner violence and sexual assault. CAT content has been developed, and is delivered, by a range of subject matter experts and highly experienced advocates. Participant members include advocates in need of basic domestic/intimate partner violence training and/or professionals whose work involves supporting survivors. We offer two options for completing the CAT course: our livestream/in-person training (offered quarterly and taking place over a 2-week period) and our self-paced, online learning training. There is no fee or registration. Since this training focuses on domestic violence it is best suited for system based advocates or community based advocates that focus on providing services to domestic violence victims.

Utah Coalition for Sexual Assault (UCASA):

Hosted by: [Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault](#)

VOCA/VAWA/SASP Certified Assurances requires all non-profit organizations (501(c)3) receiving grant funding who provide rape crisis services to complete 40 hours of training in assisting victims of sexual assault. Training to certify as a Rape Crisis Counselor must be provided by a Utah Rape Crisis Program or a State Sexual Assault Coalition.

We provide state-mandated 40-hour training for advocates that are entering the field as well as community members that would like to learn more. We provide various topics including the 16 core hours that the rest can be taken with UVAA and UDVC. We have 6 trainings a year

including 2 that are in Spanish. About half of our training is in the mornings and the other in the afternoons. The training is virtual through Zoom. This training is free and designed specifically for advocates and volunteers at rape crisis centers. The training will instill critical foundational concepts for advocates to begin working with survivors of sexual violence.

Utah Children's Justice Centers:

The [Utah Children's Justice Center](#) Program supports local Children's Justice Centers in seeking and maintaining accreditation from **the National Children's Alliance (NCA)**. Accredited membership in NCA requires that programs meet ten standards. One standard is victim support and advocacy. All CJC staff and allied agency professionals who provide victim advocacy services to CJC clients are required to have initial, specialized training that includes a minimum of 24 hours including: dynamics of child abuse, trauma-informed services, crisis assessment and intervention, risk assessment and safety planning, professional ethics and boundaries, understanding the coordinated multidisciplinary response, victim's legal rights, court education, knowledge of community resources, cultural responsiveness, caregiver resilience, and family violence. CJC victim advocates must also complete an additional 16 hours of training to meet the State of Utah requirement. This online training is free, self-paced and can be accessed through the CJC Program. Individuals who provide victim advocacy for CJsCs must participate in ongoing education in child maltreatment consisting of a minimum of 8 hours every two years.

UDVC, UOVC, and UCASA meet regularly to review and ensure that our respective trainings are up to date and meet the regulations set forth in law. All trainings must include the following

Foundational Topics

- a. role of a victim advocate and the history of victim services;
- b. trauma-informed advocacy/coordination;
- c. ethics;
- d. informed consent/confidential communications;
- e. crime victim's compensation;
- f. trauma;
- g. crisis intervention/response; and
- h. victim rights.

Draft Training Policy HB53

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZCLtpWI Z97MHt-TuigDpjnf__jg3A_qX/edit#