

Victim Privacy Amendments
 2025 GENERAL SESSION
 STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Sahara Hayes
 Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill allows a victim of a crime to have the victim's initials used instead of the victim's name in publicly available criminal justice documents.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ allows a victim of a crime to have the victim's initials used instead of the victim's name in publicly available criminal justice documents;
- ▶ requires a database of victim names that is searchable in response to a court order; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

77-38-6, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 16, 237 and 352

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **77-38-6** is amended to read:

77-38-6 . Victim's right to privacy -- Option to use victim's initials in publicly available criminal justice documents.

(1)(a) The victim of a crime has the right, at any court proceeding, including any juvenile court proceeding, not to testify regarding the victim's address, telephone number, place of employment, or other locating information unless the victim specifically consents or the court orders disclosure on finding that a compelling need exists to disclose the information.

(b) A court proceeding on whether to order disclosure shall be in camera.

- 31 (2)(a) A defendant may not compel any witness to a crime, at any court proceeding,
32 including any juvenile court proceeding, to testify regarding the witness's address,
33 telephone number, place of employment, or other locating information unless the
34 witness specifically consents or the court orders disclosure on finding that a
35 compelling need for the information exists.
- 36 (b) A court proceeding on whether to order disclosure shall be in camera.
- 37 (3)(a) A victim of a criminal offense has the right to have the victim's initials rather than
38 the victim's name used in charging documents and any other publicly available filing
39 or document related to the criminal justice process that is created by a prosecuting
40 agency, the Utah State Courts, a law enforcement agency, the Division of Juvenile
41 Justice and Youth Services, the Department of Corrections, the Youth Parole
42 Authority, the Board of Pardons and Parole, or a related entity.
- 43 (b) For purposes of Subsection (3)(a), a filing or document is publicly available if the
44 filing or document is:
- 45 (i) available to, and accessible by, the general public; or
46 (ii) only available if a member of the public requests the filing or document, even if
47 the member of the public is required to pay a fee to access the filing or document.
- 48 (c) An entity described in Subsection (3)(a) shall maintain a list or database of victim
49 names for which the victim's initials have been used so that the name of a victim can
50 be searched and identified in response to a court order.

51 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

52 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.