

Victim Notification: Safety and Privacy Planning

Utah SAKI Victim Advocate Lauren DeVries

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Victim Notification: Safety and Privacy Planning Overview

- ▶ How Utah discovered the need for safety and privacy planning.
- ▶ Victim notification feedback from survivors and system partners.
- ▶ Sexual Violence vs. Domestic Violence victim needs.
- ▶ What does Safety and Privacy Planning look like?
- ▶ What questions should victim advocates be asking to assess safety and privacy concerns.
- ▶ Case example.
- ▶ Discuss physical safety, emotional safety, privacy planning, court privacy, confidentially, civil orders of protection.

What we heard from victims...

- ▶ “Are you going to reach out to the suspect?”
- ▶ “Are you going to interview him? What does that mean for me?”
- ▶ “Are you going to give the suspect my name?”
- ▶ “What happens when you get a buccal swab? Will he know why his swab is getting taken?”
- ▶ “Will he contact me? Could he find me?”
- ▶ “I am worried he or his family will retaliate against me, especially so many years later?”
- ▶ “Right now, the suspect doesn’t know who I am or remember me and I have a family now.”
- ▶ “I became pregnant as a result of the assault and the two suspects do not know and I don’t want them to know. It is a safety risk for my child. Can I keep that information private or secret if I move forward?”

Safety planning with non-intimate partner sexual violence survivors?

Sexual violence can completely alter a survivors overall sense of safety. Many survivors affected by sexual violence have concerns about their safety and privacy and may not feel physically safe for months or years after an assault. Finding ways to stay and feel safe can be an important step towards healing for survivors of sexual assault.



**SUPPORTING
SURVIVORS**

DV vs. SV Safety Planning

Is there a difference?

It is important to note that safety planning with survivors of non-intimate partner sexual assault differs from safety planning with survivors of domestic violence or intimate partner sexual assault. A study completed by BioMed **Central Women's**

Health discovered that often survivors of non-intimate partner sexual assault were less likely to receive risk assessments or less likely to be offered some type of safety planning. Their result findings reflect the importance of offering care tailored to the differing needs of non-intimate partner sexual assault. - BioMed

Central Women's Health

<https://bmcwomenshealth.biomedcentral.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s12905-017-0408-9>



System Partners' Feedback about Safety and Privacy Planning

- ▶ Survivors should be at the center of their safety and privacy concerns.
- ▶ Survivors should be empowered to make their own choices regarding their personal safety and privacy.
- ▶ Victim-centered safety plans can help restore power and control to survivors as they make informed decisions about their safety and privacy.

System Partners' Feedback about Safety and Privacy Planning

- ▶ Take the time to acknowledge that the survivor has survived and has innate survival skills.
- ▶ It is important for survivors to understand that safety and privacy planning is not addressing what skills or plans should have been in place to prevent the assault or incident.
- ▶ Safety and privacy planning is for the purpose of addressing post assault safety and privacy concerns that are a direct result of the assault.

System Partners' Feedback about Safety and Privacy Planning

- ▶ Recognize that each safety need and concern are unique and should be developed on an individual basis.
- ▶ Help the survivor assess what their specific safety and privacy concerns are.
- ▶ Encourage survivors to trust their instincts regarding the perpetrator and their specific safety and privacy needs.

Safety and Privacy Concerns for Survivors:

- ▶ Seeing the assailant
- ▶ **Being contacted by that person or that person's friends/family**
- ▶ Being harassed or stalked through different mediums
- ▶ Different types of retaliation such as:
 - ▶ reporting the survivor to immigration authorities,
 - ▶ firing the survivor/employee (cases of workplace sexual assault),
 - ▶ evicting the survivor/tenant,
 - ▶ sharing video or pictures of the survivor,
 - ▶ **posting pictures or statements online or "outing" a survivor who may identify as (LGBTQ).**

Safety and Privacy Concerns for Survivors:

- ▶ Survivors additionally may have concerns about maintaining their privacy to potentially prevent contact, harassment or retaliation. Assisting the victim to maintain their privacy or addressing privacy concerns can be an important factor into for a survivors sense of safety.
- ▶ Survivors may have additional privacy concerns if their case is going to court.
- ▶ Survivors may also develop an elevated general fear after an assault such as crowds, being alone, being out at night, etc.

Where to Start?

- ▶ Determining the acquaintance relationship the survivor shares with the perpetrator may help identify what specific safety or privacy concerns may be present. Is the perpetrator a classmate, employer, landlord, family member, friend, online acquaintance, complete stranger, etc.
- ▶ Each of these scenarios may present unique safety or privacy concerns.

Physical Safety Question Prompts

- ▶ Where and in what ways might the victim come in contact with the perpetrator?
- ▶ What information if any, does the perpetrator have about where the victim lives, works, or goes to school, or about other places they go on a regular basis?
- ▶ **Does the perpetrator have access to the victim's housing?**
- ▶ Is the victim physically safe inside their house? Does their windows and door locks? Does the victim have lights outside your house?
- ▶ Who could the victim stay if they needed to leave home? Does the victim have friends or family nearby? Who else in the community does the victim know and trust?

Physical Safety Question Prompts

- ▶ Has the perpetrator contacted the victim since the assault or threatened, stalked or harassed the victim in anyway?
- ▶ **Does the victim have any concerns with the perpetrator's family or circle of friends?**
- ▶ Does the victim have a cell phone they can use if they need to call for help?
- ▶ Are there specific things the victim can think of doing that might help them feel safe?
- ▶ Is there someone the victim trusts who can accompany them to places they need to go?

Physical Safety Question Prompts

- ▶ Is the victim a student? Do they feel safe at school?
- ▶ Does the perpetrator know where the victim goes to school or their school schedule?
- ▶ **Is the perpetrator a classmate or in a position of authority at the victim's school?**
- ▶ Does the victim want to continue to go to their current school?
- ▶ Does the perpetrator know where the victim works? Is the perpetrator a coworker or a person who has authority over the victim?
- ▶ If so, is there a sexual harassment policy at their work? Did the victim inform their employer? How did they respond? Does the victim think reporting will make it less safe for them?
- ▶ Does the victim come in contact with perpetrator at work? Is there a way to avoid interacting with the perpetrator?

Physical Safety Tips

- ▶ Assess how much the perpetrator knows about the survivor and identify potential changes that might help keep the survivor safer.
- ▶ Identify for each place the survivor spends significant time-home, school, work, place of worship, the gym, etc. someone who can help keep the victim safe. Make sure the **victim's family, friends, acquaintances, school and/or work staff know not to give out ANY of the victim's personal information to anyone.**
- ▶ Work with the survivor to develop a plan for what they can do if they see their perpetrator. Who will they call? Where will they go?
- ▶ Does the survivor need help relocating? Explore whether it would be safer for them to stay elsewhere short-term or have a trusted family member or friend stay with them short-term.



Orders of Protection

When available a civil protection order can be a valuable safety measure. However, many jurisdictions do not provide civil protection orders for survivors of non-intimate partner sexual assault. Be aware of what is available in your state.

In Utah, survivors of non-intimate partner sexual assault can get a no contact order put in place if the suspect is arrested and booked into jail.

Other considerations about civil protection orders:

The survivor may not know the perpetrator's name, phone number, home or work address, criminal history, access to weapons etc. The survivor may be unable to assess whether or to what extent the perpetrator poses a risk of future harm which can make it difficult to meet the standard for a civil protection order.

Technology Privacy and Safety Planning

Technology has become a necessity in our everyday lives and as a result, high-tech stalking or harassment has become more common. Technology safety and privacy tips can be used as a preventive measure to deter potential harassment, stalking or monitoring.



Technology Privacy and Safety Planning Question Prompts

- ▶ Does the perpetrator know the victim's phone number? Email address?
- ▶ Does the perpetrator know any of the victim's passwords?
- ▶ Does the victim have any social media accounts? Is the victim "friends" with the perpetrator? Is anyone in their social media network, "friends" with the perpetrator?
- ▶ Did the victim meet the perpetrator online? Is the victim concerned that the perpetrator will contact them on the internet?
- ▶ **Has the perpetrator or perpetrator's friends/family contacted the victim using these mediums?**
- ▶ Has anything been posted about the victim online?
- ▶ Does the victim know what their current privacy settings are?
- ▶ Is the victim worried about the perpetrator finding information about them on the internet? Has the victim searched for their name on the internet? If so does any private information come up?



Social Media and Online Privacy and Safety Tips

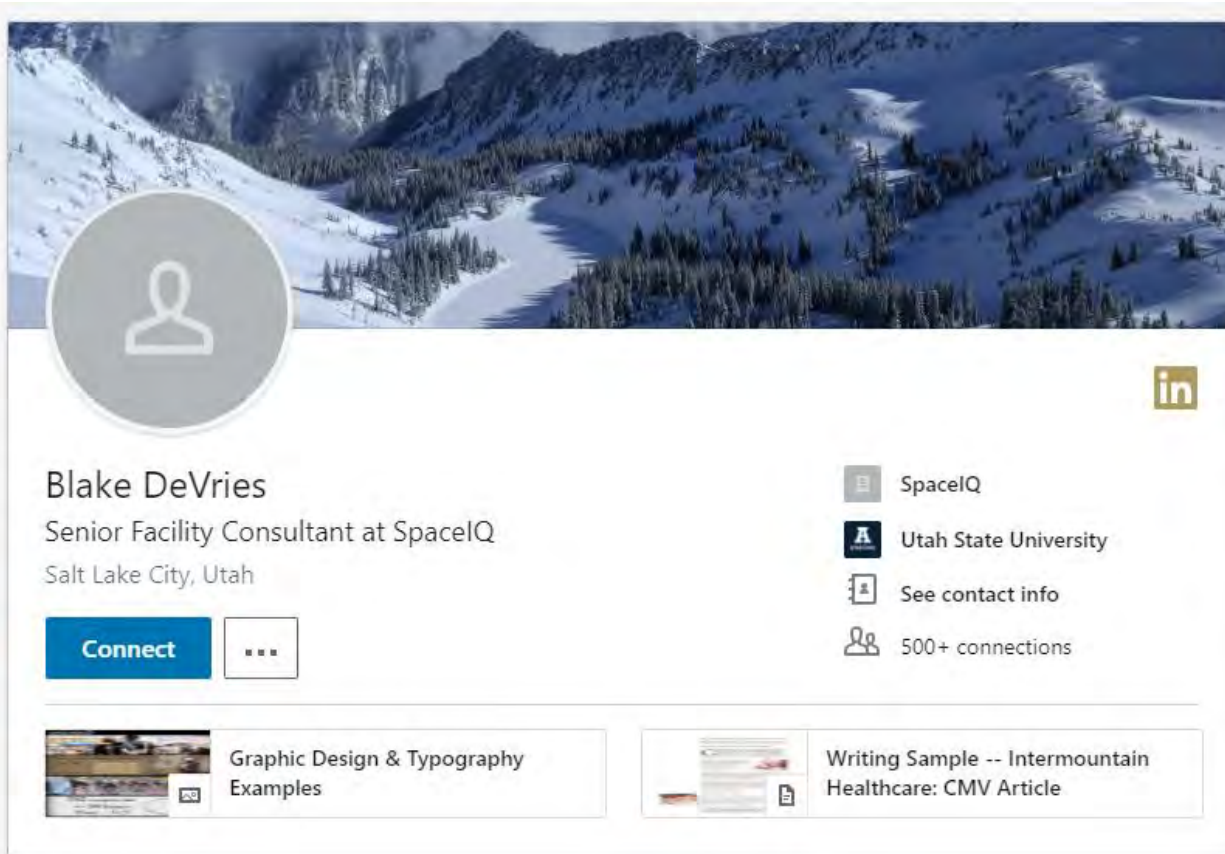
- ▶ It is important for survivors to know about safety and privacy options when using social media accounts to prevent misuse by perpetrators.
 - ▶ Identify privacy settings on social media accounts.
 - ▶ Survivors may want to turn off any location sharing or geo-tagging for content posted.
 - ▶ Survivors may want to be cautious accepting new friends.
 - ▶ Survivors may want to change their name to a pseudo name.
 - ▶ **Evaluate if the survivor's children have access to social media accounts and apply the same privacy and safety cautions.**
- ▶ **Assess the survivor's web presence by google the survivor's name online.** If personal information about the survivor shows up there are several steps that can be taken to remove personal information.
 - ▶ Be aware that some records such as voter registration are considered public information. **Survivors may find that because this information is public their home address's, phone numbers, email addresses, relatives names, etc. can be found online.**
 - ▶ Some websites have an opt-out option, while some websites will have to be contacted directly for information to be taken down.

Utah SAKI Case Study

“The suspects may not remember or know who I am? Their curiosity is going to be peaked now. I don’t want them or their family members using the internet to find information on me. Could they find out where I live or find out I have children?”



Case Example



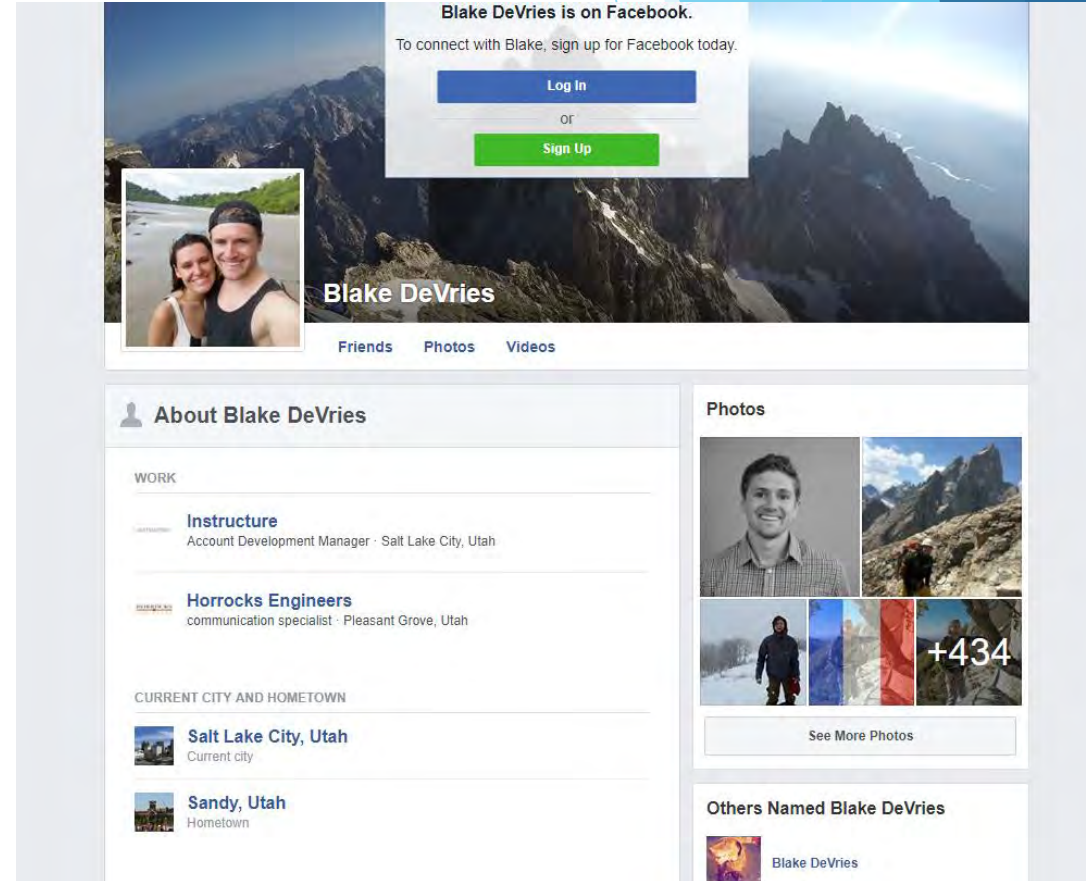
LinkedIn profile of Blake DeVries. The header features a large background image of a snowy mountain landscape and a circular profile picture placeholder. The name "Blake DeVries" is prominently displayed, followed by the title "Senior Facility Consultant at SpacelQ" and the location "Salt Lake City, Utah". A blue "Connect" button and a menu icon are visible. To the right, a list of affiliations includes "SpacelQ", "Utah State University", and "See contact info", along with a note of "500+ connections". The bottom section shows two featured items: "Graphic Design & Typography Examples" and "Writing Sample -- Intermountain Healthcare: CMV Article".

Blake DeVries
Senior Facility Consultant at SpacelQ
Salt Lake City, Utah

[Connect](#)

SpacelQ
Utah State University
See contact info
500+ connections

Graphic Design & Typography Examples
Writing Sample -- Intermountain Healthcare: CMV Article



Facebook profile of Blake DeVries. The header shows a cover photo of a mountain landscape and a profile picture of Blake and a woman. A login prompt for "Blake DeVries is on Facebook" is overlaid on the right. Below the header, the name "Blake DeVries" is displayed with tabs for "Friends", "Photos", and "Videos". The "About Blake DeVries" section lists work experience at "Instructure" (Account Development Manager) and "Horrocks Engineers" (communication specialist). It also lists the current city as "Salt Lake City, Utah" and the hometown as "Sandy, Utah". The "Photos" section shows a grid of images with a "+434" indicator and a "See More Photos" link. The "Others Named Blake DeVries" section shows a small profile picture and name.

Blake DeVries is on Facebook.
To connect with Blake, sign up for Facebook today.
[Log In](#)
OR
[Sign Up](#)

Blake DeVries
[Friends](#) [Photos](#) [Videos](#)

About Blake DeVries

WORK

Instructure
Account Development Manager · Salt Lake City, Utah

Horrocks Engineers
communication specialist · Pleasant Grove, Utah

CURRENT CITY AND HOMETOWN

Salt Lake City, Utah
Current city

Sandy, Utah
Hometown

Photos

+434
[See More Photos](#)


Others Named Blake DeVries
Blake DeVries

Case Example

VoterRecords.com

Steven Blake Devries is listed at 3047 E 7145 S Salt Lake City, UT and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Steven is registered to vote in Salt Lake County, Utah.

[Like](#) [Share](#) [Full Background Report](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)

 **Divorce Records**
Marital Status Available [VISIT SITE](#)

Overview of Steven Blake Devries
Lives in: Salt Lake City, Utah
Phone: [View phone number](#)

Steven Devries's Voter Registration


Party Affiliation: Republican Party	Precinct: Cot021:00
Registered to Vote In: Salt Lake County, Utah	Congressional District: 3
Registration Date: 04/24/2008	House District: 46
Voter Status: Active	Senate District: 8
	School Board District: Canyons School Board 2

Records Opt-Out at VoterRecords.com

[More Info](#)
[Related Records](#)
[Comments](#)
[Register/Update Info](#)

Steven B Devries
View the full background check report for Steven B Devries from Salt Lake City, UT.
[View Report](#)
[Background Check](#)

0 Comments Sort by [Oldest](#)

 Add a comment...

[Facebook Comments Plugin](#)

Register to Vote/Update Information
Utah Voters
The following buttons will take you to details on how to register to vote or update your existing voter registration in the
[UPDATE VOTER REGISTRATION](#) [REGISTER TO VOTE](#)

[Terms & Conditions](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [About Us](#) [Frequently Asked Questions](#) [Contact Us](#) [Record Opt-Out](#)

Steven Blake Devries's Voter Record Opt-Out Request

We respect people's privacy and have provided this opt-out system for those who wish to remove some of their public records data from appearing on VoterRecords.com. The opt-out form below will remove information such as house number, phone, and email address from the record displayed on VoterRecords.com.

Please remember that all records appearing on VoterRecords.com are public record and can be obtained directly from the government by anyone at anytime. Removing information from VoterRecords.com has no effect on the official records the government maintains and releases.

Record to Opt-Out
Steven Blake Devries
Residential Address:
3047 E 7145 S Salt Lake City Ut 84121-4341
Registered to Vote In: Salt Lake County, UT
Registration Date: 04/24/2008
Voter Status: Active
[VIEW DETAILS](#)


Submitting the opt-out form below will remove the following types of information from the record: **house number, phone, and email address.**

Full Name

Email Address

Confirm Email Address

☐ I agree that I am the individual appearing in this record or have the legal authority to act on this person's behalf in requesting this record opt-out on VoterRecords.com.

☐ I'm not a robot 
[Privacy](#) [Terms](#)

[SUBMIT OPT-OUT](#) [Back to Record](#)

[Terms & Conditions](#)

Does Your State Offer a Confidentially Program to Survivors of Sexual Assault?

- ▶ 32 States have launched Address Confidentiality Programs, which give victims substitute, government-managed addresses (often a post office box) to use in place of their physical address.
- ▶ Some programs only accept domestic violence survivors, but many accept victims of sexual assault and stalking.

Rhode Island	Confidential Voter Registration	R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 17-28-1 to 17-28-8 (2008) http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE17/17-28/INDEX.HTM Note: Must have active RO against someone (either in state or out of state) or a domestic violence no contact order to be a part of program	Elections Division- Secretary of State 148 W. River St., Providence, RI 02904 (401) 222-2340 http://www.sos.ri.gov/divisions/Elections/Voters/voter-registration (Confidentiality information at bottom of site)
South Carolina	None		
South Dakota	None		
Tennessee	Confidential Address for Obtaining Utilities	Tenn. Code Ann. §10-7-504 subdivision (a)(15)(B) [2013] Eligibility requires a valid Protection Order.	Eligible participants should contact their local utility company to apply.
Texas	Address Confidentiality Program	Tex. Code Crim. Proc. Ann. art. 56.81 - 56.93 (2008) Note: May be required to have a protective order if Attorney General requires pursuant to §56.83. May use ACP address for voter registration but must register in person and present ID. Can then receive ballots in mail.	Address Confidentiality Program PO Box 12199 MC-069 (888) 832-2322 https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/victims/acp.shtml
Utah	None		



STATE OF UTAH

REQUEST TO MAKE VOTER REGISTRATION PRIVATE

Utah Code Ann. § 20A-2-104 and § 63G-2-302

Please fill out the following information:

I, _____, hereby request my voter registration information be classified as private.
Print Name

Address (resident address at which you are registered to vote)

County

Last four digits of social security

Driver license or ID number

To make a voter registration record private, you must provide evidence that establishes that the release of the information on your voter registration record is likely to endanger your or a household member's safety or place you or a household member at risk of being stalked or harassed.

Evidence may include a protective order, a police report, or other evidence designated by rule by the director of elections within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Please attach evidence or documentation to this request.

PLEASE BE ADVISED this process is designed to protect your voter registration information. If your request is granted, your information may still be publically available in other public records and commercially available databases.

I swear/affirm that the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that I am qualified to have my voter registration classified as private under Utah Code Ann. § 20A-2-104 and § 63G-2-302.

Signature

Date

Please submit this application and documentation to your county clerk.

Court Privacy

- ▶ In the State of Utah (77-38-6), survivors have a right to privacy in a criminal court proceeding.
- ▶ A survivor can not be forced to disclose their address, telephone number, place of employment or other locating information without compelling reason.
- ▶ In the State of Utah, a survivor with concerns regarding their privacy in court may contact the Utah Crime Victims Legal Clinic to speak or request a Victim Rights Attorney.



Survivors Not Moving Forward Due to Safety and Privacy Concerns

In many cases, sexual assault survivors' first priority is safeguarding their privacy, even if doing so means that certain safety measures are not an option.

For example, a survivor may decide not to seek a civil protection order, disclose the assault to police, move forward with their criminal case or disclose to others like family, schools or employers.

Considerations as an Advocate for Privacy

- ▶ If your records are not protected by absolute privilege, what steps can you take to ensure that your notes and records will not reveal identifying, damaging or incriminating information about the survivor?
- ▶ How can you best balance the need for information that helps you and the survivor assess the risk of harm against how that information could be used against the survivor if it had to be disclosed to court?



Lauren DeVries

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Questions:

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