

UTAH JUDICIAL COUNCIL
STANDING COMMITTEE ON MODEL UTAH CRIMINAL JURY INSTRUCTIONS
MEETING MINUTES

Via Webex
January 7, 2026 – 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Committee Members	Role	Present	Excused	Guests
Hon. Teresa Welch	District Court Judge [Chair]	•		
	Justice Court Judge (Vacancy)			
Hon. Matthew Bates	District Court Judge		•	
Hon. Linda Jones	Emeritus District Court Judge		•	
Dr. Jay Jordan	Linguist/Communications Professor		•	
Janet Lawrence	Defense Attorney		•	
McKay Lewis	Prosecutor	•		
Jeffrey Mann	Prosecutor	•		
Breanne Miller	Prosecutor	•		
Nic Mills	Prosecutor	•		
Lacey Singleton	Defense Attorney	•		
Shannon Woulfe	Defense Attorney		•	
Dallas Young	Defense Attorney	•		
Jace Willard	Staff	•		

(1) WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judge Welch welcomed the Committee and Dallas Young as a new Committee member. Mr. Young introduced himself to the Committee and all other present members likewise introduced themselves.

(2) APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2025 MINUTES

Judge Welch invited a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. McKay Lewis moved to approve the minutes and Jeff Mann seconded the motion. Without objection the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

(3) AGENDA ITEM 3: DUI ROADMAP REVIEW

Judge Welch reviewed the Roadmap of DUI Series Instructions and invited the Committee members to consider whether they are available to take the lead on any of the unassigned instructions.

(4) AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS TO CR1012 – INTERLOCK RESTRICTED DRIVER VIOLATION AND SVF1450 – IMPERFECT SELF-DEFENSE; ADDITIONAL PROPOSED AMENDMENTS OF CR1402, CR1403, CR1411, CR1451

The Committee next considered public comments received regarding recently added CR1012 - Interlock Restricted Driver Violation and amendments to SVF 1450 - Imperfect Self Defense. No comments were received as to CR1012. But proposed amendments to the SVF 1450 committee notes, and related instructions, were submitted by Jeff Mann from a colleague at the Attorney General's Office. Jeff explained the proposed redline changes to SVF1450 clarify relevant points and do's and don'ts when imperfect self-defense is submitted to the jury. He then moved that the proposed changes be adopted. McKay Lewis seconded. No objection having been raised, the motion carried. Revised SVF1450 will be published and sent out for comment.

It was proposed that similar amendments be made as to the committee notes in CR1402, CR1403, CR1411, and CR1451. McKay moved to adopt such as to CR1402. Breanne Miller seconded. The motion carried. Revised CR1402 will be published and sent out for comment.

McKay moved to adopt similar amendments as to CR1403. Nic Mills seconded. The motion carried. Revised CR1403 will be published and sent out for comment.

McKay moved to adopt similar amendments as to CR1411 as well. Dallas seconded. The motion carried. Revised CR1411 will be published and sent out for comment.

Lastly, McKay moved to adopt similar amendments as to CR1451. Jeff seconded. The motion carried. Revised CR1451 will be published and sent out for comment.

(5) AGENDA ITEM 6: SPECIAL VERDICT FORM ISSUES

Judge Welch noted that a request was submitted to the Committee for a lesser-included offense verdict form. The request indicated that an issue had arisen during trial "as to how the 'guilty' and 'not guilty' boxes for each offense should be structured." Breanne commented that, in her experience, judges will often grant a request by the defense to reverse the order of the boxes, so that the "not guilty" option appears first. In her opinion,

there's no basis for such a reversal. Dallas suggested that the issue would arise in the context of a general verdict form and that the presumption of innocence may support the "not guilty" box being presented first. Breanne said there would be no harm in drafting a general verdict form and a lesser-included verdict form. Dallas agreed but didn't see real value in such forms, and suggested the Committee's resources might be better spent elsewhere. Judge Welch called for a vote. Breanne supported creating a draft. The other members present voted against it. Jace will notify the requester that the Committee determined not to pursue the proposal, and will point the requester to available special verdict forms.

(6) AGENDA ITEM 5: PROPOSED CR541 & CR542 – IGNORANCE OR MISTAKE OF FACT / LAW

Judge Welch turned to draft instructions CR541 and CR542, for ignorance or mistake of fact / law, drafted by Freyja Johnson prior to completing her service on the Committee. Breanne moved to approve the proposed changes. McKay seconded. The motion carried. Amended CR541 and CR542 will be published and go out for public comment.

(7) AGENDA ITEMS 7 - 9: PROPOSED CR1010, CR1010A & CR1011 – REFUSING A CHEMICAL TEST, DEFINITION OF DUI ADMONITION, REFUSAL AS EVIDENCE OF CONSCIOUSNESS OF GUILT

Judge Welch advised that the proposed instructions McKay has put together as to refusing a chemical test, the definition of a DUI admonition, and refusal as evidence of consciousness of guilt will be first on the agenda for the February meeting.

(8) ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.