

1 **Rule 1. General provisions.**

2 **(a) Scope of rules.** These rules govern the procedure in the courts of the state of Utah in
3 all actions of a civil nature, whether cognizable at law or in equity, and in all statutory
4 proceedings, except as governed by other rules promulgated by this court or statutes
5 enacted by the Legislature, and except as stated in Rule [81](#). They must be liberally
6 construed and applied to achieve the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of
7 every action. These rules govern all actions brought after they take effect and all further
8 proceedings in actions then pending. If, in the opinion of the court, applying a rule in an
9 action pending when the rule takes effect would not be feasible or would be unjust, the
10 former procedure applies.

11 **(b) Definition.** As used in these rules, "district court panel" means a panel of three
12 district court judges that is convened to hear and decide an action.

13 *Effective: [11/1/2024](#) February 13, 2026*

14 **Advisory Committee Notes**

15 These rules apply to court commissioners to the same extent as to judges.
16 A primary purpose of the 2011 amendments is to give effect to the long-standing but
17 often overlooked directive in Rule 1 that the Rules of Civil Procedure should be
18 construed and applied to achieve "the just, speedy and inexpensive determination of
19 every action." The amendments serve this purpose by limiting parties to discovery that
20 is proportional to the stakes of the litigation, curbing excessive expert discovery, and
21 requiring the early disclosure of documents, witnesses and evidence that a party
22 intends to offer in its case-in-chief. The committee's purpose is to restore balance to the
23 goals of Rule 1, so that a just resolution is not achieved at the expense of speedy and
24 inexpensive resolutions, and greater access to the justice system can be afforded to all
25 members of society.

26 Due to the significant changes in the discovery rules, the Supreme Court order adopting
27 the 2011 amendments makes them effective only as to cases filed on or after the effective

28 date, November 1, 2011, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties or ordered by the
29 court.

30 The February 13, 2026 effective date is upon approval by a constitutional two-thirds
31 vote of all members elected to each house.