

1 **Rule 3-101. Judicial performance standards.**

2 **Intent:**

3 To establish performance standards upon which the ~~Judicial~~ Council will certify judicial  
4 compliance to the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (“JPEC”).

5 **Applicability:**

6 This rule applies to all justices and judges of the courts of record and not of record.

7 **Statement of the Rule:**

8 (1) **Performance standards.** The ~~Judicial~~ Council will certify to JPEC judicial compliance with  
9 the following performance standards: cases under advisement, education, and physical and  
10 mental competence.

11 (2) **Definition of case under advisement.**

12 (2)(A) A case is considered to be under advisement when the entire case or any issue in  
13 the case has been submitted to the judge for final determination. For purposes of this  
14 rule, “submitted to the judge” or “submission” is the last of the following:

15 (2)(A)(i) When a matter requiring attention is placed by staff in the judge’s  
16 personal electronic queue, inbox, personal possession, or equivalent;

17 (2)(A)(ii) If a hearing or oral argument is set, at the conclusion of all hearings or  
18 oral argument held on the specific motion or matter; or

19 (2)(A)(iii) If further briefing is required after a hearing or oral argument, when all  
20 permitted briefing is completed, a request to submit is filed, if required, and the  
21 matter is placed by staff in the judge's personal electronic queue, inbox, personal  
22 possession, or equivalent.

23 (2)(B) A case is no longer under advisement when the trial court judge makes a decision  
24 on the issue that is under advisement or on the entire case. The final determination  
25 occurs when the trial court judge resolves the pending issue by announcing the decision  
26 on the record or by issuing a written decision, regardless of whether the parties are  
27 required to subsequently submit a final order memorializing the decision for the judge’s  
28 signature.

29 (3) **Case under advisement performance standards.**

30 (3)(A) **Supreme Court justice.** A justice of the Supreme Court demonstrates satisfactory  
31 performance by circulating not more than 25% ~~three of their~~ principal opinions per  
32 calendar year more than ~~six months-150 days~~ after submission, not more than 10% of  
33 their principle opinions per calendar year more than 210 days after submission, and by  
34 circulating all principal opinions within one year of submission.

35 (3)(B) **Court of Appeals judge.** A judge of the Court of Appeals demonstrates  
36 satisfactory performance by:

37 ~~(3)(B)(i) circulating not more than 25% of their principal opinions per calendar year more~~  
38 ~~than 120 days after submission, circulating not more than 10% of their principal opinions~~  
39 ~~per calendar year more than 180 days after submission, and by circulating all principal~~  
40 ~~opinions within 270 days after submission. circulating not more than three principal~~  
41 ~~opinions per calendar year more than six months after submission; and~~

42 ~~(3)(B)(ii) achieving a final average time to circulation of a principal opinion of not~~  
43 ~~more than 120 days after submission.~~

44 (3)(C) **Trial court judge.** A trial court judge demonstrates satisfactory performance by  
45 holding:

46 (3)(C)(i) not more than three cases per calendar year under advisement more  
47 than two months after submission; and

48 (3)(C)(ii) no case under advisement more than six months after submission.

49 (4) **Case under advisement performance standards—compliance.** A judge or justice ~~shall~~  
50 must decide all matters submitted for decision within the applicable time periods in paragraph  
51 (3), unless circumstances causing a delayed decision are beyond the judge's or justice's  
52 personal control. The case under advisement performance standards for appellate courts in  
53 paragraphs (3)(A) and (3)(B) begin with cases submitted after May 1, 2026.

54 (5) **Judicial education performance standard.**

55 (5)(A) **Education hour standard.** Satisfactory performance is established if the judge or  
56 justice annually obtains 30 hours of judicial education subject to the availability of in-  
57 state education programs.

58 (5)(B) **Education hour standard—compliance.** A judge or justice ~~shall~~must obtain the  
59 number of education hours prescribed by this rule, unless circumstances preventing the  
60 judge from doing so are beyond the judge's or justice's personal control.

61 (6) **Physical and mental competence performance standard.** Satisfactory performance is  
62 established if the response of the judge or justice demonstrates physical and mental  
63 competence to serve in office and if the Council finds the responsive information to be complete  
64 and correct. The Council may request a statement by an examining physician.

65 (7) **Reporting requirements.**

66 (7)(A) **Reporting term.** For purposes of this rule, the reporting term for new justices and  
67 judges begins on the date the Utah Senate confirms their appointment. The reporting  
68 term for retained justices and judges begins the day after they submit the report in  
69 (7)(B). The reporting term for all justices and judges ends on August 1<sup>st</sup> of the year  
70 preceding the next general election in which the judge or justice is standing for retention.

71 (7)(B) **Reporting requirement.** Within 14 calendar days following the end of a reporting  
72 term, justices and judges ~~shall~~must report to the ~~Judicial~~-Council their compliance or  
73 non-compliance with the performance standards in this rule during that reporting term.

74 Reports ~~shall~~will be submitted in accordance with policies established by the ~~Judicial~~  
75 Council. If non-compliance is due to circumstances beyond the justice's or judge's  
76 personal control, the judge or justice must provide an explanation of the circumstances  
77 and may submit supporting documentation.

78 **(8) Judicial Council certification.**

79 (8)(A) As to the performance standards in this Rule, the ~~Judicial~~ Council ~~shall~~will certify  
80 to JPEC that each judge or justice standing for retention is:

81 (8)(A)(i) Compliant;

82 (8)(A)(ii) Compliant with explanation, meaning that the ~~Judicial~~ Council has  
83 received credible information that non-compliance was due to circumstances  
84 beyond the personal control of the judge or justice; or

85 (8)(A)(iii) Non-compliant, which may include a judge or justice who has certified  
86 his or her own compliance but the ~~Judicial~~ Council has received credible  
87 information inconsistent with that certification.

88 (8)(B) The ~~Judicial~~ Council will transmit its certification to JPEC by the deadline  
89 established in the Utah Administrative Code.

90 (8)(C) All material relied upon by the ~~Judicial~~ Council in making a certification decision or  
91 explanation ~~shall~~will be forwarded to JPEC and ~~shall~~will be made public to the extent  
92 that the information is not confidential personal health information.

93  
94 *Effective: ~~5/1/2024~~May 1, 2026*