



Utah State Courts

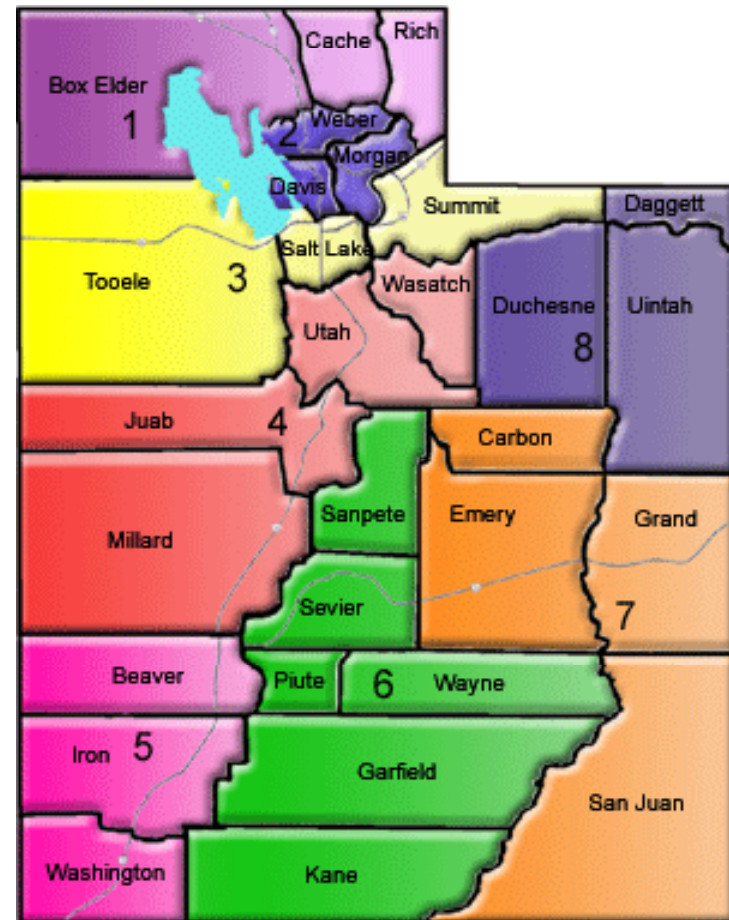
A Practical Guide to the Utah State Courts

www.utcourts.gov

Judicial Districts

Utah is divided into eight judicial districts. Both district and juvenile courts are represented in each of Utah's districts.

Justice Court jurisdictions are determined by the boundaries of cities and counties.



Court Levels

Appellate Courts: Supreme Court and
Court of Appeals

District Court: Adult Court/Trial Court

Civil and Criminal cases

Juvenile Court: “Youth Court”

Under the age of 18

Justice Courts: Misdemeanor
criminal and traffic violations



District Court

District Court judges hear civil cases, domestic relations cases, probate cases, criminal cases, small claims cases, and appeals from Justice Courts.



Criminal Cases

A criminal case occurs when the government believes a person has broken the law.

There are three classifications of criminal activity: felony, misdemeanor, and infraction.

A defendant is required to attend proceedings such as first appearance, misdemeanor arraignment, trial, and sentencing.

Civil Cases

A civil case is a dispute between two or more individuals or entities.

Most civil actions involve a plaintiff who is suing a defendant.

Examples of civil actions include a claim for personal injury, a request for an injunction, divorce, or breach of contract.

In most civil cases, the parties don't appear in court, except at trial.

Juvenile Court

Juvenile Court has jurisdiction in all cases involving a child who is abused, neglected, or dependent as well as delinquency cases, when a law is broken




Juvenile Court

Most common types of offenses committed by juveniles are shoplifting, possession of alcohol, theft, burglary, possession of marijuana, destruction of property, possession of tobacco, trespassing, curfew violation, and assault.



Justice Court

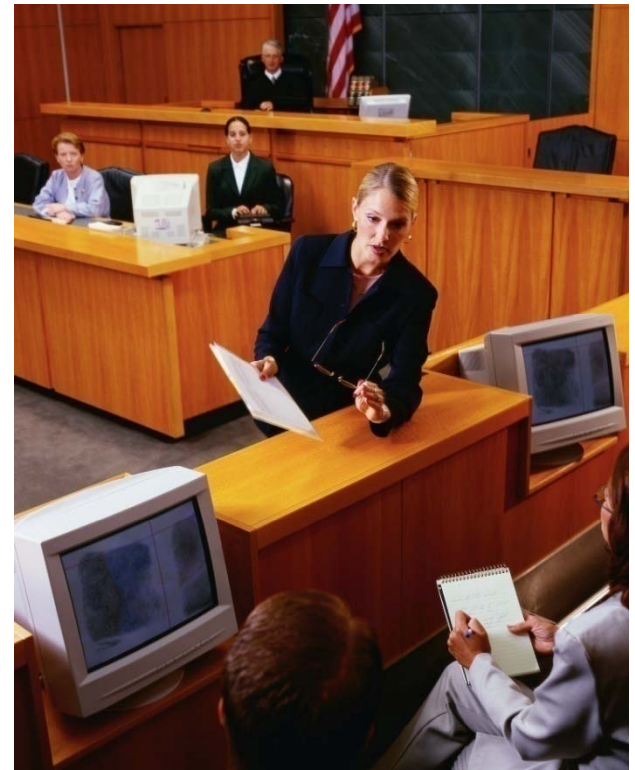


Justice Courts are located throughout Utah and are funded and operated by the city or county.

Justice Court cases include misdemeanor criminal cases, traffic and parking infractions, and small claims cases.

Know Your Rights

- You are innocent until proven guilty.
- You have the right to know what the charges are against you.
- You have the right to face your accuser and have witnesses testify in your defense.
- You have the right to a trial by jury.
- You have the right to an attorney.
- You have the right to an interpreter.



Legal Terminology Glossary

This glossary has been compiled through various resources and is not all-inclusive. Its use is intended for guidance in navigating the Utah court system in English and Spanish and for use in standardizing terminology in translated documents.

-- English --

Abandonment
Abrogate
Abstract
Abstract of judgment
Accessory
Accomplice
Accrual
Accrued interest
Accused

-- Spanish --

Abandono
Abrogar
Extracto
Resumen de fallo
Partícipe
Cómplice
Acumulación
Intereses acumulados
Acusado

Commonly Asked Questions

Where do I go to get a protective order?

Why would my children be removed from my home?

What can I do if I can not afford an attorney?



Legal Resources

Legal clinics give general legal information and brief legal advice. You can also get help with forms, and ask questions about the law. Most legal clinics handle *civil* law matters only.

Talking to someone at a legal clinic is not the same as hiring an attorney, because the attorneys can not take your case or represent you in court. Going to a legal clinic can help you decide if you can handle the matter on your own, or if you should hire an attorney.



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QUESTIONS?



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**Utah's Courts are
committed to open, fair,
and independent justice.**