



Utah Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on the Rules of Juvenile Procedure

Meeting Agenda

Matthew Johnson, Chair

Location: Webex Meeting

Date: September 4, 2026

Time: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Action: Welcome and approval of the August 7, 2026 meeting minutes.	Tab 1	Matthew Johnson
Discussion & Action: Rule 16 . Transfer of delinquency case and venue. <i>Rule 16 was posted for public comment on June 30, 2026. The rule comment period closed on August 14, 2026, and one comment was received. The comment praises the work of the Committee.</i>	Tab 2	All
Discussion & Action: Rule 7 . Warrants. <i>The Committee will resume discussion on proposed amendments to Rule 7, following the Utah Supreme Court's return of the rule for further review of several additional suggested revisions.</i>	Tab 3	All
Discussion: Rule 30 . Citations; applicable offenses and procedures; bail. <i>Vice Chair Bill Russell proposes a comprehensive revision of Rule 30 to align with the citation process authorized in Utah Code section 80-6-302.</i>	Tab 4	All

<i>The Committee will resume discussion on the legal effect of allowing a minor to remit a fine in lieu of a court appearance, specifically, whether this constitutes an adjudication or a conviction. For reference, the text of Utah Code section 77-7-21 is attached at Tab 4.</i>		
Discussion: Rule 17. The petition. <i>HB0540 will require public juvenile court documents to be available via Xchange effective 1/1/2027, but Rule 17's petition requirements conflict with CJA Rule 4-202.02, which classifies certain information in those same petitions – such as parents' names, addresses, and potentially the offense location – as private for youth 14 or older whose petitions are otherwise public records. The Committee will discuss whether to amend Rule 17 and require a separate filing (cover sheet) for private information to avoid redacting it from public documents each time they're filed.</i>		Dawn Hautamaki
Discussion: Proposal to add a Self-Help Center Attorney to the Committee's Membership <i>Deputy Juvenile Court Administrator Zerina Ocanovic proposes adding a Self-Help Center attorney to the Committee's membership. A Self-Help Center attorney brings implementation and operational expertise on issues affecting pro se litigants.</i>	Tab 5	All
Discussion: Old business or new business. <i>October in-person meeting.</i> <i>Rule 20 and Rule 23A are out for public comment. Comment period closes on September 8, 2026.</i>		All

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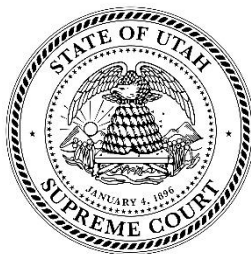
Meeting Schedule:

October 2, 2026 – In-person

December 4, 2026

November 6, 2026

TAB 1



1
2
3 **Utah Supreme Court's**
4 **Advisory Committee on the Rules of Juvenile Procedure**

5 **Draft Meeting Minutes**

6
7 *Matthew Johnson, Chair*
8

9 Location: Webex
10

11 Date: August 7, 2026
12

13 Time: 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
14

Attendees:

Matthew Johnson, Chair
William Russell, Vice Chair
Adrianna Davis
Carolyn Perkins
David Fureigh, Emeritus Member
Dawn Hautamaki
James Smith
Judge Debra Jensen
Lorelei Naegle
Rory Jones
Stephen Starr
Thomas Luchs
Tyler Ulrich

Excused Members:

Alexa Arndt
Elizabeth Ferrin
Judge David Johnson

Guests:

Paige Nelson, Office of Legislative
Research & General Counsel

Staff:

Erika Larsen, Juvenile Court Law Clerk Attorney
Raymundo Gallardo, Administrative Office of the Courts

16 **1. Welcome and approval of the June 5, 2026, Meeting Minutes. (William Russell)**
17

18 Committee Vice Chair William Russell welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted
19 that Chair Matthew Johnson would be joining late due to a conflicting meeting. Vice
20 Chair Russell extended a warm and special welcome to the Committee's three newly
21 appointed members: Lorelei Naegle, Rory Jones, and Tyler Ulrich. He then invited
22 the new members to introduce themselves.
23

24 The proposed minutes from the June 5, 2026, Committee meeting were presented.
25 Vice Chair Russell asked for comments or corrections. There were no comments or
26 corrections. Stephen Starr made a motion to adopt the minutes from the June 5, 2026,
27 meeting. Adrianna Davis seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
28

29 **2. Discussion and Action: Rule 37A. Visual recording of statement or testimony of**
30 **child in abuse, neglect, dependency, substantiation, child protective order, or other**
31 **related non-delinquency proceedings; conditions of admissibility. (All)**
32

33 The Committee reviewed proposed amendments to Rule 37A, which was sent by the
34 Supreme Court to consider simplifying the language in paragraphs (a)(3) and (c)(2).
35 Vice Chair Russell noted that the Supreme Court's proposed revisions – suggested by
36 Justice John Nielsen – were stylistic rather than substantive, designed to make the rule
37 more concise and match the civil counterpart, Rule 103, which was recently approved.
38 He noted that the delinquency counterpart, Rule 29A, had already incorporated this
39 simplified language.

40 David Fureigh proposed an additional amendment to paragraph (a)(5). Paragraph
41 (a)(5) currently requires that the person conducting the child's recorded interview be
42 present at the proceeding and available to testify. Mr. Fureigh recommended adding
43 "if requested by a party or the court" at the end of the sentence. He argued that in
44 child welfare proceedings, parties frequently stipulate to admitting the visual
45 recording without requiring the interviewer's physical presence. However, some
46 judges resist accepting these stipulations because the current rule's language is
47 mandatory. This proposed amendment would streamline proceedings and support
48 judicial economy when no party wishes to cross-examine the interviewer.

49 Tyler Ulrich supported the amendment, noting that it is common practice to stipulate
50 to the interviewer's absence when no questions are planned. Lorelei Naegle also
51 supported the change, noting that Rule 37A is frequently applied in child protective
52 order matters in the Fifth District, and the mandatory presence of the interviewer
53 often becomes an unnecessary point of contention.

Mr. Starr raised a concern regarding whether this change would invite unnecessary written objections or create procedural delays. Vice Chair Russell clarified that under the amended rule, the burden would shift to the opposing party to subpoena the interviewer if they wanted them present, protecting due process without burdening the court. Carolyn Perkins strongly opposed the amendment, expressing concern that contract and public defenders in small, rural areas often lack the administrative staff to manage subpoenas. She argued that shifting the burden of ensuring the interviewer's presence from the presenter (the State or DCFS) to the defense is a substantive and disadvantageous change.

Mr. Starr initially voiced concern from a delinquency perspective but withdrew his objection after Vice Chair Russell clarified that Rule 37A applies strictly to child welfare and other non-delinquency proceedings, whereas delinquency proceedings are governed by Rule 29A.

Erika Larsen introduced an additional concern raised by a law clerk regarding paragraph (b), which restricts questioning of a child witness to the judge or attorneys. The clerk queried how the rule should handle *pro se* litigants who do not have an attorney to ask questions. Vice Chair Russell commented that barring a *pro se* parent from questioning a child witness raises severe due process concerns, which are highly substantive and should be addressed by the legislature rather than this Committee. Ms. Naegle noted that subparagraph (b)(2) already contains a safety valve allowing the judge to authorize others to question the child ("*unless otherwise approved by the judge*"). No motion was brought regarding paragraph (b).

Mr. Ulrich made a motion to amend paragraph (a)(5) by adding the phrase "if requested by a party or the court" at the end of the sentence. Thomas Luchs seconded the motion. The motion passed by a majority vote, with Ms. Perkins voting "nay." Mr. Starr withdrew his initial "nay" vote.

Mr. Starr made a motion to present Rule 37A, as amended by the Committee, to the Supreme Court for public comment. Mr. Ulrich seconded the motion. The motion passed with one dissenting vote from Ms. Perkins, who voted "nay" specifically because of the amendment to paragraph (a)(5).

3. Discussion and Action: Senate Bill 283 and Rule 30. (All)

Vice Chair Russell led a discussion on Senate Bill 283, which became effective July 1, 2026, and its implications for Rule 30. S.B. 283 eliminated an obsolete statutory provision in Utah Code section 76-3-301.5 that required the Judicial Council to

89 establish a separate uniform fine schedule for the juvenile court. The juvenile court
90 now operates under a sliding scale that assesses fines, fees, and restitution based on a
91 family's resources and ability to pay, pursuant to Utah Code section 75E-2-207.
92 Furthermore, the AOC requested that the Committee evaluate the citation process in
93 Utah Code section 80-6-302, which is unfamiliar to the juvenile court and may not
94 align with best practices for working with minors.

95 Vice-Chair Russell reviewed his proposed overhaul of Rule 30. He explained that the
96 draft cuts the rule's volume by half by removing obsolete and redundant statutory
97 repetitions. A key change is the removal of all references to "bail," as bail is already
98 thoroughly governed by statute (such as in district court direct files, post-bindover,
99 and for out-of-state residents). The rule is now reframed to focus strictly on "fines" as
100 described in Utah Code section 80-6-302.

101 The proposed draft outlines the sequential process of a citation:

- 102 1. Citations are referred to probation for a preliminary inquiry.
- 103 2. If the minor qualifies and enters into a non-judicial adjustment, and
104 "substantially complies" with the terms, the matter is closed.
- 105 3. If the non-judicial adjustment is declined, the minor is ineligible, or the minor
106 "does not substantially comply" the citation is referred to the prosecutor.
- 107 4. The prosecutor may then commence formal proceedings on the citation, at
108 which point a fine may be assessed and the minor permitted to remit the fine
109 without the necessity of personal appearance before the juvenile court.

110 During the review, Rory Jones made two recommendations: that "successfully
111 complete" and "completes" be changed to "substantially complies" to match the
112 statutory language of Utah Code section 80-6-304.5. The Committee accepted these as
113 friendly corrections. Ms. Naegle recommended that the reference to "bail" be
114 removed from the title of Rule 30, which was also accepted.

115 Mr. Starr raised a major concern regarding the legal effect of a minor paying a fine
116 once a formal proceeding is commenced on a citation. He asked whether paying the
117 fine constitutes an adjudication of guilt (similar to the adult traffic system), and
118 whether the rule should require a formal notice advising minors of this consequence.
119 Vice Chair Russell noted that while Utah Code section 80-6-302 allows a minor to
120 remit a fine with parent and court consent without a personal appearance, the juvenile
121 code is silent on whether payment constitutes an admission or adjudication. He
122 cautioned that defining this in the rule might be a substantive policy decision that
123 belongs to the legislature. Mr. Starr agreed, and the Committee determined that

further legal research is required. Mr. Starr and Vice Chair Russell indicated they would look in the criminal code for clues.

Due to the complexity of the issue and the need for further study on the impact of paying a fine, the Committee reached a consensus to table Rule 30 and carry it over to a future agenda.

4. Discussion and Action: Rule 7. Warrants. (All)

The Committee reviewed proposed amendments to Rule 7. Vice Chair Russell explained that the Utah Supreme Court had returned the rule to the Committee with extensive and highly detailed comments from Associate Chief Justice (ACJ) Jill M. Pohlman. In response, Vice Chair Russell meticulously reviewed the rule and drafted revisions to incorporate her suggestions.

A primary structural change in the revised draft is the restriction of Rule 7 to warrants in delinquency and criminal proceedings, while shifting non-delinquency warrants to Rule 12. The draft also folds the provisions of Rule 7A (verbal pick-up orders) directly into Rule 7. Vice Chair Russell explained that ACJ Pohlman had questioned why written warrants and telephonic pick-up orders were treated as separate entities when they are both arrest warrants requiring probable cause. The consolidated Rule 7 treats pick-up orders as telephonic warrants that must be supported by a verbal statement under oath and a supplemental written statement filed by the next business day.

The Committee discussed several specific elements of the draft:

- Use of “informant” in subparagraph (a)(1)(C). Mr. Starr noted that the subparagraph refers to the “factual basis for the applicant’s knowledge, including the source and reliability of any informant relied upon.” He advocated for keeping “informant” rather than changing it to “information,” noting that while uncommon in routine juvenile practice, warrants in cases involving gangs or drugs are occasionally predicated on confidential informants, and establishing credibility is a Fourth Amendment necessity. The Committee agreed to retain “informant.”
- Placement options. Mr. Jones and Ms. Naegle discussed whether the phrase “non-secure facility” in subparagraph (a)(1)(G) sufficiently covers JJYS or DCFS placements for youth who run away from group homes. Vice Chair Russell and Mr. Jones agreed that “non-secure facility” (e.g., group homes, shelter placements, youth services) is a well-understood term of art that covers

these placements, distinct from “secured detention facility,” which is locked detention.

Mr. Starr made a motion to table Rule 7 and set it over for further study at the next meeting, given the volume and complexity of the proposed changes. The motion was approved by consensus, and Rule 7 was tabled.

5. Discussion and Action: Rule 12. Admission to shelter care. (All)

The Committee reviewed Rule 12, which was returned by the Supreme Court with revisions from ACJ Pohlman. Rule 12 has been restructured to govern warrants in child welfare and other non-delinquency proceedings. Vice Chair Russell praised Mr. Fureigh for his outstanding work on the draft.

Mr. Fureigh presented his review of ACJ Pohlman’s comments, highlighting two primary areas of disagreement and several areas of consensus:

- “Search warrants.” ACJ Pohlman questioned whether “search” should be added before “warrant.” Mr. Fureigh advised against this, as the rule covers removal warrants and failure-to-appear warrants, which are legally distinct from search warrants. The Committee agreed to retain the general term “warrant.”
- “*Ex parte* motion” vs. “without notice.” ACJ Pohlman suggested replacing “*ex parte* motion” with “without notice” to use more ordinary language. Mr. Fureigh strongly advocated for retaining “*ex parte* motion,” explaining that some juvenile judges refuse to hear motions without notice unless the rule explicitly authorizes an “*ex parte*” proceeding. Mr. Starr and Mr. Ulrich agreed that “*ex parte*” is the established legal term of art in practice and must be preserved. The Committee agreed to retain “*ex parte*.”

The Committee reviewed and approved several other additions suggested by ACJ Pohlman:

- For consistency, organization, and structure, a subheading was added to each paragraph.
- “Scope.” A new paragraph (a) was added to define the scope, listing the statutory provisions governing child welfare warrants and subpoenas—previously proposed to be included in the title—which will serve as a valuable reference for practitioners.

- “Vacatur.” Mr. Ulrich and Ms. Naegle noted that Guardians ad Litem occasionally request removal warrants, so the draft should not be limited strictly to “peace officers or child welfare caseworkers.” Mr. Starr suggested using the broader term “the applicant” (specifically “the applicant who requested the warrant or subpoena”), which the Committee approved. Mr. Fureigh and Mr. Starr noted that if a parent’s attorney moves to set aside a failure-to-appear warrant, they must provide notice to other parties, meaning the *ex parte* option is appropriately restricted to the original applicant.
- “Sealing of documents.” Mr. Fureigh pointed to ACJ Pohlman’s question on the process of unsealing documents. Raymundo Gallardo discussed the logistical implementation, noting that while judicial assistants previously tracked and unsealed these manually, the courts are developing (may have already developed) a CARE system enhancement to automate this process. Regardless of the CARE enhancement timeline, the language was approved.

Mr. Starr made a motion to approve Rule 12 as amended by the Committee and present it to the Utah Supreme Court for public comment. Mr. Ulrich seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

6. Discussion: Old business or new business. (All)

Mr. Gallardo reminded the Committee that the October 2, 2026, meeting will be held in-person at the Matheson Courthouse in Salt Lake City. The Judicial Council room is unavailable; the meeting will take place in one of the large conference rooms on the first floor.

The Committee noted the following closing dates for public comments on outstanding rules:

- Rule 16: Closes August 14, 2026.
- Rule 20 and Rule 23A: Closes September 8, 2026.

Chair Matthew Johnson reported on a recent meeting with the Supreme Court Justices. He shared that the Justices were highly complimentary of the Committee’s diligence, drafting efforts, and the high-quality product they consistently deliver. He expressed sincere thanks to all members for their dedication.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on September 4, 2026, via Webex.

TAB 2

Rule 16. Transfer of delinquency case and venue.**(a) Transfer of delinquency case for preliminary inquiry.**

(1) When a minor resides in a county other than the county where the alleged delinquency occurred and the minor initially qualifies for a nonjudicial adjustment pursuant to statute, the probation officer of the county of occurrence must transfer the referral to the minor's county of residence for a preliminary inquiry to be conducted in accordance with [Rule 15](#).

(2) If the minor or the minor's parent, guardian, or custodian cannot be located or fails to appear after notice of the preliminary inquiry, or the minor declines an offer for a nonjudicial adjustment, the probation officer must transfer the referral back to the county of occurrence to determine whether to file a petition.

(b) ~~Arraignment and pretrial proceedings~~ [Venue](#).**(1) [Venue for detention hearings](#).**

[\(A\) Except as provided in paragraphs \(b\)\(1\)\(B\) and \(b\)\(1\)\(C\), initial detention hearings and detention review hearings will be heard in a court in the minor's county of residence.](#)

[\(B\) In cases where the minor is being held in a detention facility outside of the minor's county of residence, a court in the minor's county of residence will hold the hearings if the court can hear the matter remotely. If a remote hearing is not available, a court in the county where the minor is being held will hold the detention hearings.](#)

[\(C\) If a petition is filed in the county where the alleged delinquency occurred, the court in the county of occurrence may hold a detention review hearing if that hearing is held in conjunction with an arraignment or other pretrial hearing and after consulting with the court in the minor's county of residence.](#)

(2) [Venue for arraignment and further proceedings](#).

27 ~~(A) Upon the filing of a petition, t~~The arraignment ~~and initial pretrial conference~~
28 will be held in the minor's county of residence. If the petition is adjudicated at
29 arraignment, all further proceedings will be held in the minor's county of
30 residence. ~~If the petition is resolved without a trial, venue will remain in the~~
31 ~~minor's county of residence.~~

32 ~~(B2)~~ Except as provided in paragraph (b)(3), if the matter is not adjudicated at the
33 arraignment, the court will transfer the matter to the county of occurrence for
34 pretrial conference and all other hearings up to and including adjudication. If the
35 petition is adjudicated in the county of occurrence, the matter will be transferred
36 to the minor's county of residence for disposition and further
37 proceedings. ~~Prosecutors and defense counsel in both the county of occurrence and~~
38 ~~the county of residence must cooperate with each other both to provide discovery~~
39 ~~to defense counsel and to assist in the resolution or litigation of each case.~~

40 ~~(3) The prosecutor in the minor's county of residence has the authority to resolve any~~
41 ~~out-of-county charge after consultation with the prosecutor in the county or counties~~
42 ~~where the alleged offenses occurred.~~

43 ~~(4) A prosecutor attempting to resolve a petition must respect the rights of any alleged~~
44 ~~victim in the county or counties of occurrence.~~

45 ~~(c) Transfer of venue.~~

46 ~~(1) Once the court in the county of residence determines that the matter cannot be~~
47 ~~resolved, venue will be transferred to the county of occurrence for trial proceedings~~
48 ~~and scheduling.~~

49 ~~(2) Any motion related to the admission, exclusion, or suppression of evidence at trial~~
50 ~~will be filed in and ruled upon by the trial court.~~

51 (3) Venue for competency motions. Motions for inquiry into competency may be
52 raised in and ruled upon by a court in the minor's county of residence or by a court
53 in the county of occurrence ~~in either court.~~ The court in the county of residence and

the court in the county of occurrence will communicate and consult regarding the motion. The objective of that communication is to consider the appropriate venue for a competency ruling and attainment proceedings.

~~(4) If the petition is adjudicated, the case will be transferred back to the court in the minor's county of residence for disposition and continuing jurisdiction.~~

~~(d)~~ **Notice to and proceedings in the receiving court.** With each transfer, the transferring court will provide notice to the receiving court of any petition or adjudication subject to transfer. The receiving court will proceed with the case as though the petition was filed or the adjudication was made in the receiving court.

~~(e)~~ **Dismissal of petition.** The dismissal of a petition in one district where the dismissal is without prejudice and where there has been no adjudication upon the merits does not preclude refiling within the same district or another district where venue is proper.

Effective Date:

Rule 16. Transfer of delinquency case and venue.**(a) Transfer of delinquency case for preliminary inquiry.**

(1) When a minor resides in a county other than the county where the alleged delinquency occurred and the minor initially qualifies for a nonjudicial adjustment pursuant to statute, the probation officer of the county of occurrence must transfer the referral to the minor's county of residence for a preliminary inquiry to be conducted in accordance with [Rule 15](#).

(2) If the minor or the minor's parent, guardian, or custodian cannot be located or fails to appear after notice of the preliminary inquiry, or the minor declines an offer for a nonjudicial adjustment, the probation officer must transfer the referral back to the county of occurrence to determine whether to file a petition.

(b) Venue.**(1) Venue for detention hearings.**

(A) Except as provided in paragraphs (b)(1)(B) and (b)(1)(C), initial detention hearings and detention review hearings will be heard in a court in the minor's county of residence.

(B) In cases where the minor is being held in a detention facility outside of the minor's county of residence, a court in the minor's county of residence will hold the hearings if the court can hear the matter remotely. If a remote hearing is not available, a court in the county where the minor is being held will hold the detention hearings.

(C) If a petition is filed in the county where the alleged delinquency occurred, the court in the county of occurrence may hold a detention review hearing if that hearing is held in conjunction with an arraignment or other pretrial hearing and after consulting with the court in the minor's county of residence.

(2) Venue for arraignment and further proceedings.

(A) The arraignment will be held in the minor's county of residence. If the petition is adjudicated at arraignment, all further proceedings will be held in the minor's county of residence.

(B) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(3), if the matter is not adjudicated at the arraignment, the court will transfer the matter to the county of occurrence for pretrial conference and all other hearings up to and including adjudication. If the petition is adjudicated in the county of occurrence, the matter will be transferred to the minor's county of residence for disposition and further proceedings.

(3) Venue for competency motions. Motions for inquiry into competency may be raised in and ruled upon by a court in the minor's county of residence or by a court in the county of occurrence. The court in the county of residence and the court in the county of occurrence will communicate and consult regarding the motion. The objective of that communication is to consider the appropriate venue for a competency ruling and attainment proceedings.

(c) Notice to and proceedings in the receiving court. With each transfer, the transferring court will provide notice to the receiving court of any petition or adjudication subject to transfer. The receiving court will proceed with the case as though the petition was filed or the adjudication was made in the receiving court.

(d) Dismissal of petition. The dismissal of a petition in one district where the dismissal is without prejudice and where there has been no adjudication upon the merits does not preclude refiling within the same district or another district where venue is proper.

Effective Date:

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Posted: June 30, 2026

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Rules of Juvenile Procedure – Comment Period Closed August 14, 2026

URJP016. Transfer of delinquency case and venue. Amend. The proposed amendments primarily clarify the procedures for transferring delinquency cases, establishing the minor’s county of residence as the primary venue. Additionally, the proposal specifies that cases not adjudicated at arraignment must be transferred to the county of occurrence for “pretrial conference and all other hearings up to and including adjudication” before returning to the county of residence for disposition, and it allows either court to handle competency motions following mutual consultation.

This entry was posted in [Uncategorized](#), [URJP016](#).

« [Rules of Appellate Procedure – Comment Period Closes September 8, 2026](#)

[Code of Judicial Administration – Comment Period Closed August 6, 2026](#) »

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UTAH COURTS

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One thought on “Rules of Juvenile Procedure – Comment Period Closed August 14, 2026”

Paul Wake
June 30, 2026 at 1:21 pm

My comment is that the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on the Utah Rules of Juvenile Procedure does a fine job of helping Utah children, and I am grateful for your fine work.

- [-Rules of Appellate Procedure](#)
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- [ADR0104](#)
- [ADR101](#)
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- [Appendix A](#)
- [Appendix B](#)
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- [CJA01-0201](#)
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- [CJA03-0104](#)

TAB 3

Rule 7. Warrants in delinquency and criminal proceedings.

~~(a) Arrest warrants generally.~~ The issuance and execution of an arrest warrant is governed by ~~Title 77, Chapter 7, Arrest;~~ Utah Code sections ~~78A-6-102, 78A-6-352, 80-2a-202,~~ and 80-6-202; and by Title 77, Chapter 7. ~~Rule 40 of the Utah Rules of Criminal Procedure~~ An arrest warrant must be supported by facts set forth in a sworn petition or information filed under Utah Code section 80-6-305 or 80-6-503, respectively, or by a separate sworn statement filed or made in compliance with paragraph (b).

(b) **Arrest warrant application.** A probation officer, prosecutor, or other authorized person may request that the court issue an arrest warrant for a minor as follows:

(1) Except for warrants issued under paragraph (a)(2), every application for an arrest warrant under this rule must be made in writing, sworn under oath, and contain the following:

(A) the full name, date of birth, and last known address of the minor, together with the name, address, and contact information of the minor's parent, guardian, or custodian, if known;

(B) the minor's alleged offense, the classification of the alleged offense if committed by an adult, together with the date, time, and place of the alleged offense, to the extent known;

(C) the foundation and factual basis for the affiant's knowledge, including the source and reliability of any informant relied upon;

(D) a statement that the minor's arrest is authorized pursuant to Utah Code section 80-6-202(1)(a), including the specific statutory ground authorizing the arrest;

(E) certification that a petition or information has already been filed or is being filed contemporaneously with the warrant application;

(F) a statement of whether the minor is currently under the court's jurisdiction for any other pending or adjudicated delinquency petitions; and

(G) whether the affiant requests the court order the minor to be released to a parent or guardian, placed in a nonsecure facility, or admitted to a secure detention facility.

(2) Upon a sworn verbal request from a probation officer or other authorized person, the court may issue a pick-up order telephonically during nonbusiness hours or under exigent circumstances when it appears necessary for the protection of the community or the minor. The person requesting the pick-up order must file, by the next court business day, a sworn statement containing the information required by paragraph (b)(1).

~~(c)~~ **Content of an arrest warrant.** An arrest warrant under this rule must be signed by the court and must contain the following. ~~After a petition is filed, a warrant for immediate temporary custody of a minor may be issued if the court finds from the facts set forth in an affidavit filed with the court or in the petition that there is probable cause to believe that:~~

(1) the name, date of birth, and last known address of the minor ~~the minor has committed an act which would be a felony if committed by an adult;~~

(2) the factual basis for the court's probable cause determination justifying the arrest ~~the minor has failed to appear after the minor or the parent, guardian or custodian has been legally served with a summons;~~

(3) the location or type of facility where the minor will be taken ~~there is a substantial likelihood the minor will not respond to a summons;~~

(4) if the minor is to be taken to a secure detention facility, an order requiring the minor's immediate admission to the secure detention facility and prohibiting the minor's release without further court order ~~the summons cannot be served and the minor's present whereabouts are unknown;~~

(5) the name and title of the person requesting the warrant unless the court orders the warrant on its own initiative~~the minor seriously endangers others and immediate removal appears to be necessary for the protection of others or the public; or~~

(6) the date, county, and court location where the warrant is being issued~~the minor is a runaway or has escaped from the minor's parent, guardian, or custodian; and~~

(7) any time limitation on the execution of the warrant in accordance with Utah Code section 77-7-5(5).

(de) Execution of an arrest warrant.~~A warrant for immediate temporary custody of a minor may be issued if the court finds from the affidavit that the minor is under the continuing jurisdiction of the court and probable cause to believe that the minor:~~

(1) An arrest warrant issued under this rule may be executed only by a peace officer authorized by law to make arrests.~~has left the custody of the person or agency vested by the court with legal custody and guardianship without permission; or~~

(2) The timing and manner of execution of the arrest warrant must comply with the terms of the warrant and the provisions of Utah Code section 77-7-5(5)~~has violated a court order.~~

(3) A peace officer who brings a minor to a detention facility pursuant to an arrest warrant must inform the person in charge of the facility of the existence of that order.

(4) Nothing in this rule should be construed to limit the statutory authority of a probation officer to take a minor into temporary custody under Utah Code section 80-6-201.

(ed) Warrant to arrest parent, guardian, or custodian. An applicant seeking a warrant to arrest a minor's parent, guardian, or custodian pursuant to Utah Code section 78A-6-352 must comply with paragraph (b).~~A warrant for immediate custody shall be signed by a court and shall contain or be supported by the following:~~

~~(1) an order that the minor be returned home, taken to the court, taken to a juvenile detention, shelter facility, other nonsecure facility or an adult detention facility, if appropriate, designated by the court at the address specified pending a hearing or further order of the court;~~

~~(2) the name, date of birth and last known address of the minor;~~

~~(3) the reasons why the minor is being taken into custody;~~

~~(4) a time limitation on the execution of the warrant;~~

~~(5) the name and title of the person requesting the warrant unless ordered by the court on its own initiative pursuant to these rules; and~~

~~(6) the date, county and court location where the warrant is being issued.~~

~~(f)~~ **Search warrants.** Search warrants in juvenile delinquency cases are governed by Utah Code section 77-23-210 and Rule 40 of the Utah Rules of Criminal Procedure. ~~A peace officer who brings a minor to a detention facility pursuant to a court order for immediate custody shall so inform the person in charge of the facility and the existence of such order shall require the minor's immediate admission. A minor so admitted may not be released without court order.~~

~~(g)~~ **Return of service.** A return of service on an arrest or search warrant must be filed with the court within 72 hours of its execution unless the court orders otherwise. ~~This rule shall not limit the statutory authority of a probation officer to take a minor who has violated a condition of probation into custody under Utah Code section 80-6-201.~~

~~(h)~~ **Record sealing and retention.** ~~Return of service on a warrant shall be executed within 72 hours unless otherwise ordered by the Court.~~

~~(i)~~ Prior to a peace officer or a child welfare worker executing a warrant issued pursuant to Utah Code section 80-2a-202 for a child who is missing, has been abducted, or has run away, counsel for the Division of Child and Family Services may file an ex parte motion to vacate the warrant.

~~(i) The juvenile court to retain and file copies—Documents sealed for twenty days—
Forwarding of record to court with jurisdiction.~~

(1) When an arrest or search warrant is issued pursuant to this rule, ~~At the time of issuance,~~ the juvenile court will~~shall~~ retain and seal ~~a copy of the search~~ warrant, the application, and all verbal or written sworn statements upon~~affidavits or other recorded testimony on~~ which the warrant is based and will~~shall~~, within a reasonable time, file those sealed documents in court files which are secured against access by the public. Those documents will~~shall~~ remain sealed until 20~~twenty~~ days after~~following~~ the issuance of the warrant unless that time is extended or reduced. Unsealed search warrant documents will~~shall~~ be filed in the court record.

(2) Sealing and retention of the file may be accomplished by:

(A) placing paper documents or storage media in a sealed envelope and filing the sealed envelope in a court file not available to the public;

(B) storing the documents by electronic or other means under the control of the court in a manner reasonably designed to preserve the integrity of the documents and protect them against disclosure to the public during the period in which they are sealed; or

(C) filing through the use of an electronic filing system operated by the State Utah ~~which system is~~ designed to transmit accurate copies of the documents to the court file without allowing alteration to the documents after ~~issuance of~~ the warrant is issued~~by the juvenile court.~~

Effective Date:

1 **Rule 7. Warrants in delinquency and criminal proceedings.**

2 (a) **Warrant application.** ~~The issuance and execution of a warrant is governed by Title 77,~~
3 ~~Chapter 7, Arrest; Utah Code sections 78A-6-102, 78A-6-352, 80-2a-202, and 80-6-202; and~~
4 ~~Rule 40 of the Utah Rules of Criminal Procedure.~~

Commented [JP1]: Should we label this Arrest warrant application?

5 (1) Except for warrants issued under paragraph (a)(2), every application for an arrest
6 warrant under this rule must be made in writing, sworn under oath, and contain the
7 following:

8 (A) the full name, date of birth, and last known address of the minor, together with
9 the name, address, and contact information of the minor's parent, guardian, or
10 custodian, if known;

11 (B) the minor's alleged offense, the classification of the alleged offense if
12 committed by an adult, together with the date, time, and place of the alleged
13 offense, to the extent known;

14 (C) the foundation and factual basis for the affiant's knowledge, including the
15 source and reliability of any informant relied upon;

Commented [JP2]: I think this is supposed to be "information"

16 (D) a statement that the minor's arrest is authorized pursuant to Utah Code section
17 80-6-202(1)(a), including the specific statutory ground authorizing the arrest;

18 (E) certification that a petition or information has already been filed or is being
19 filed contemporaneously with the warrant application;

20 (F) a statement of whether the minor is currently under the court's jurisdiction for
21 any other pending or adjudicated delinquency petitions; and

22 (G) whether the affiant requests the court order the minor to be released to a parent
23 or guardian, placed in a nonsecure facility, or admitted to a secure detention
24 facility.

25 (2) On verbal request from a probation officer or other authorized individual, the
26 court may issue a pick up order telephonically during nonbusiness hours or under

Commented [JP3]: I would think this should be hyphenated (pick-up) unless the norm is not to hyphenate it.

exigent circumstances when it appears necessary for the protection of the community or the minor and must be supported by an affidavit from the requesting authority containing the information required by paragraph (a)(1) the next court business day.

(b) **Content and form of a warrant.** An arrest warrant under this rule must be supported by facts set forth in the petition or information filed under Utah Code sections 80-6-305 and 80-6-503 or by a separate affidavit or petition filed pursuant to paragraph (a), signed by a court, and must contain the following: After a petition is filed, a warrant for immediate temporary custody of a minor may be issued if the court finds from the facts set forth in an affidavit filed with the court or in the petition that there is probable cause to believe that:

(1) the name, date of birth, and last known address of the minor; the minor has committed an act which would be a felony if committed by an adult;

(2) the factual basis upon which the court determined there is probable cause to take the minor into temporary custody; the minor has failed to appear after the minor or the parent, guardian or custodian has been legally served with a summons;

(3) the type of placement where the minor is directed to be taken; there is a substantial likelihood the minor will not respond to a summons;

(4) if the minor is to be taken to a secure detention facility, an order requiring the minor's immediate admission to the secure detention facility and prohibiting the minor's release without further court order; the summons cannot be served and the minor's present whereabouts are unknown;

(5) the name and title of the person requesting the warrant unless ordered by the court on its own initiative pursuant to these rules; the minor seriously endangers others and immediate removal appears to be necessary for the protection of others or the public; or

(6) the date, county, and court location where the warrant is being issued; the minor is a runaway or has escaped from the minor's parent, guardian, or custodian; and

Commented [JP4]: To make it clear who must file the affidavit, I'd suggest breaking this into two sentences:

"On verbal request from a probation officer or other authorized individual, the court may issue a pick-up order telephonically during nonbusiness hours or under exigent circumstances when it appears necessary for the protection of the community or the minor. The individual requesting the pick-up order must file, by the next court business day, a sworn statement containing the information required by paragraph (a)(1)."

Commented [JP4R2]: Another thought: Although this paragraph identifies a substitute for a warrant application, it also identifies what the court can do. I'm wondering if we still need a section labeled something like, "Issuance of an arrest warrant or pick up order," that identifies when the court may issue a warrant or a pick-up order. That also makes me wonder whether a "pick-up" is different than an arrest and whether a court needs probable cause for a pick-up order.

Commented [JP5]: Should we revise to say, **Content of an arrest warrant?**

I suggest adding "arrest" just to distinguish from search warrants.

I suggest removing "form" because the rule doesn't dictate a particular form - just content.

Commented [JP6]: If this intends to refer to (a)(2), let's change "affidavit" to "sworn statement"

Commented [JP7]: Should petition be "application"?

Commented [JP8]: This is a bit unclear. In para (b)(2), we say the court must have a factual basis for probable cause and that the factual basis must be included in the warrant. Is this intending to convey something more than that? I'm not sure what the highlighted part of the intro language is instructing the court to do relative to the content of the arrest warrant.

... [1]

Commented [JP9]: Must should be revised to "will" pursuant to the style guide as this provision instructs what the court will do.

Commented [JP10]: I'd revise to: "the factual basis for the court's probable cause determination justifying taking the minor into temporary custody" (or, mo ... [2]

Commented [JP11]: Or, "the location or type of facility where the minor will be taken"

Commented [JP12]: Or "individual"? We use individual above.

Commented [JP14]: Is this a reference to (a)(2) or something else?

(7) any time limitation on the execution of the warrant.

(c) **Execution of a warrant.** A warrant for immediate temporary custody of a minor may be issued if the court finds from the affidavit that the minor is under the continuing jurisdiction of the court and probable cause to believe that the minor:

(1) An arrest warrant issued under this rule may be executed only by a peace officer authorized by law to make arrests, has left the custody of the person or agency vested by the court with legal custody and guardianship without permission; or

(2) Unless the court expressly limits the timing, an arrest warrant issued under these rules may be executed at any time has violated a court order.

(3) A peace officer who brings a minor to a detention facility pursuant to a court order for immediate custody must inform the person in charge of the facility of the existence of that such order. A minor so admitted to detention pursuant to a court order may not be released without a court order.

(4) Nothing in this rule should be construed to limit the statutory authority of a probation officer to take a minor into temporary custody under Utah Code section 80-6-201.

(d) **Warrant to arrest parent, guardian, or custodian.** An applicant seeking a warrant to arrest a minor's parent, guardian, or custodian pursuant to Utah Code section 78A-6-352 must adhere to the requirements of this rule. A warrant for immediate custody shall be signed by a court and shall contain or be supported by the following:

(1) an order that the minor be returned home, taken to the court, taken to a juvenile detention, shelter facility, other nonsecure facility or an adult detention facility, if appropriate, designated by the court at the address specified pending a hearing or further order of the court;

(2) the name, date of birth and last known address of the minor;

(3) the reasons why the minor is being taken into custody;

Commented [JP15]: Should we revise to, "Execution of an arrest warrant"?

Commented [JP16]: Is this compliant with law? Don't warrants ordinarily need to have a basis for execution at night?

If this is compliant, I'd revise the language as follows: "Unless the court orders otherwise, an arrest warrant issued under this rule may be executed at any time of the day."

Commented [JP17]: Does "immediate custody" have special meaning different than just "custody"? Should it be "temporary custody"?

Commented [JP18]: I think it makes sense to have, as we do above, something saying this should be in the court's order. But it seems a bit odd to have it here. (And fwiw, this entire section gets a bit beyond rules of procedure.)

Commented [JP19]: I'd suggest replacing with "... comply with paragraph (a)."

~~(4) a time limitation on the execution of the warrant;~~

~~(5) the name and title of the person requesting the warrant unless ordered by the court on its own initiative pursuant to these rules; and~~

~~(6) the date, county and court location where the warrant is being issued.~~

(e) **Search warrants.** Search warrants in juvenile delinquency cases are subject to the procedures and requirements in Utah Code section 77-23-210 and Rule 40 of the Utah Rules of Criminal Procedure. ~~A peace officer who brings a minor to a detention facility pursuant to a court order for immediate custody shall so inform the person in charge of the facility and the existence of such order shall require the minor's immediate admission. A minor so admitted may not be released without court order.~~

(f) **Return of service.** A return of service on a warrant must be filed within 72 hours, except as otherwise directed by the court. ~~This rule shall not limit the statutory authority of a probation officer to take a minor who has violated a condition of probation into custody under Utah Code section 80-6-201.~~

(g) Return of service on a warrant shall be executed within 72 hours unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

(h) Prior to a peace officer or a child welfare worker executing a warrant issued pursuant to Utah Code section 80-2a-202 for a child who is missing, has been abducted, or has run away, counsel for the Division of Child and Family Services may file an ex parte motion to vacate the warrant.

(i) **The juvenile court to retain and file copies—Documents sealed for twenty days—Forwarding of record to court with jurisdiction.**

(1) ~~When a~~ warrant ~~is issued pursuant to this rule, At the time of issuance,~~ the juvenile court will~~shall~~ retain and seal a copy of the ~~search~~ warrant, the application, and all affidavits or other recorded testimony on which the warrant is based and will~~shall~~, within a reasonable time, file those sealed documents in court files which are secured against access by the public. Those documents will~~shall~~ remain sealed until ~~20~~twenty

Commented [JP20]: I'd replace with "governed by"

Commented [JP21]: Arrest and search warrants? I'd be specific here. E.g., "A return of service on an arrest or search warrant must be filed ..."

Commented [JP22]: I'd revise to, "... must be filed with the court within 72 hours of its execution[?]" unless the court orders otherwise."

Commented [JP23]: It looks like this got left behind and was replaced by (f). Unless I'm missing something, it should be deleted.

Commented [JP24]: This is oddly worded. What if we change it to:

"Counsel for the Division of Child and Family Services may, before the warrant is executed, file an ex parte motion to vacate a warrant issued pursuant to Utah Code section 80-2a-202 for a child who is missing, has been abducted, or has run away."

Formatted: Font: Bold

Commented [JP25]: We could shorten this title to: "Retention and sealing of documents."

Commented [JP26]: Should we add "an arrest or search"?

Commented [JP27]: Why not replace this with, "any other evidence"

Commented [JP28]: Is this section an outdated relic? When would a court ever dispose of these documents/evidence, and does the court need to take additional steps once it designates the records as sealed? I think we may need to provide that the court will seal the record and then unseal it after 20 days, but the rest of (i)(1) seems a bit unnecessary.

107 days ~~after~~following the issuance of the warrant unless that time is extended or
108 reduced. Unsealed search warrant documents ~~will~~shall be filed in the court record.

109 (2) Sealing and retention of the file may be accomplished by:

110 (A) placing paper documents or storage media in a sealed envelope and filing the
111 sealed envelope in a court file not available to the public;

112 (B) storing the documents by electronic or other means under the control of the
113 court in a manner reasonably designed to preserve the integrity of the documents
114 and protect them against disclosure to the public during the period in which they
115 are sealed; or

116 (C) filing through the use of an electronic filing system operated by the State Utah
117 ~~which system is~~ designed to transmit accurate copies of the documents to the court
118 file without allowing alteration to the documents after ~~issuance of~~ the warrant is
119 ~~issued by the juvenile court.~~

120 *Effective Date:*

Commented [JP29]: I asked a similar question to that above last November re whether this is still necessary under current systems. If it is, I'm fine to leave it as is. I just want to make sure we've explored it.

This is a bit unclear. In para (b)(2), we say the court must have a factual basis for probable cause and that the factual basis must be included in the warrant. Is this intending to convey something more than that? I'm not sure what the highlighted part of the intro language is instructing the court to do relative to the content of the arrest warrant.

Also, does this mean that a court can issue a warrant without the application in (a)(1) or (a)(2) if it has a petition or information? I think the "or" in this sentence suggests as much, but I want to be sure of the intent.

I'd revise to: "the factual basis for the court's probable cause determination justifying taking the minor into temporary custody" (or, more simply, "the factual basis for the court's probable cause determination justifying the arrest")

TAB 4

Rule 30. Citations; applicable offenses and procedures; ~~bail.~~

(a) AUpon receiving a citation issued for an offense listed pursuant to in Utah Code section 80-6-302(1), a juvenile probation officer will make a preliminary inquiry as to the minor's eligibility for a nonjudicial adjustment in accordance with Utah Code section 80-6-303.5(4), and will make and offer a nonjudicial adjustment if the minor is eligible~~shall be sufficient to invoke the jurisdiction of the juvenile court in any offense listed in that section.~~

(b) If the minor agrees to and substantially complies with the terms of the nonjudicial adjustment, the citation will be closed successfully, with no further action taken by the juvenile court.~~Procedure. Whenever a citation is issued pursuant to Utah Code section 80-6-302, a copy of the citation filed with the juvenile court may be used in lieu of a petition upon which the minor may appear and admit the offense, upon which the court may make a disposition, or upon which the court may accept bail in lieu of appearance. If the minor fails to appear on a citation or fails to tender the fine as bail in cases where bail is permitted in lieu of appearance, a petition or order to show cause may be filed and further proceedings held as provided in these rules.~~

(c) If the minor declines, is not eligible for, or does not substantially comply with the nonjudicial adjustment, the citation will be referred to a prosecuting attorney to conduct an inquiry under Utah Code sections 80-6-302(8) and (9).~~Where a citation has been filed with the juvenile court for an offense, the minor cited, pursuant to Utah Code section 80-6-302, shall be allowed to post bail without further court appearance except as provided in this rule.~~

(d) If, after inquiry, the prosecuting attorney commences a formal proceeding on the citation, the minor may be permitted, in accordance with Utah Code section 80-6-302(12), to remit a fine in the amount determined pursuant to Utah Code section 75E-2-207, without personal appearance before the juvenile court.~~The bail amount for each such offense shall be included in a written notice of bailable offenses in accordance with the bail/fine schedule approved by the Judicial Council. The bail amount may immediately~~

~~be forfeited as a fine and shall be deemed a conviction of the offense charged if the notice has been given to the cited minor and the notice advises the minor and the minor's parent, guardian or custodian that payment of the fine constitutes an admission of guilt.~~

~~(e) A juvenile court district may, or where required by statute shall, designate repeat offenses for which an appearance or additional bail is required.~~

~~(f) In other circumstances, a minor in a detention facility may have a right to bail pursuant to Utah Code section 80-6-207.~~

Effective date:

1 **Rule 30. Citations; applicable offenses and procedures.**

2 (a) Upon receiving a citation issued for an offense listed in Utah Code section 80-6-302(1),
3 a juvenile probation officer will make a preliminary inquiry as to the minor's eligibility
4 for a nonjudicial adjustment in accordance with Utah Code section 80-6-303.5(4), and will
5 make and offer a nonjudicial adjustment if the minor is eligible.

6 (b) If the minor agrees to and substantially complies with the terms of the nonjudicial
7 adjustment, the citation will be closed successfully, with no further action taken by the
8 juvenile court.

9 (c) If the minor declines, is not eligible for, or does not substantially comply with the
10 nonjudicial adjustment, the citation will be referred to a prosecuting attorney to conduct
11 an inquiry under Utah Code sections 80-6-302(8) and (9).

12 (d) If, after inquiry, the prosecuting attorney commences a formal proceeding on the
13 citation, the minor may be permitted, in accordance with Utah Code section 80-6-302(12),
14 to remit a fine in the amount determined pursuant to Utah Code section 75E-2-207,
15 without personal appearance before the juvenile court.

16 *Effective date:*

Effective 5/6/2026

77-7-21 Proceeding on citation -- Voluntary payment of recommended fine amount -- Parent signature required -- Information, when required.

- (1)
- (a) A citation filed with the court may, with the consent of the defendant, serve in lieu of an information to which the defendant may plead guilty or no contest to the charge or charges listed and be sentenced accordingly.
 - (b) If provided by the uniform fine schedule described in Section 76-3-301.5, or with the court's approval, an individual may voluntarily pay the recommended fine amount and other penalties without a personal appearance before the court in any case charging a class B misdemeanor or lower offense, unless the charge is:
 - (i) a domestic violence offense as defined in Section 77-36-1;
 - (ii) a violation of Section 41-6a-502, driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of both or with specified or unsafe blood alcohol concentration;
 - (iii) a violation of Section 41-6a-517, driving with any measurable controlled substance in the body;
 - (iv) a violation of a local ordinance similar to the offenses described in Subsections (1)(b)(i) through (iii); or
 - (v) a violation that appears to:
 - (A) affect a victim, as defined in Section 77-38b-102; or
 - (B) require restitution, as defined in Section 77-38b-102.
 - (c) A defendant's voluntary payment of the recommended fine amount and other penalties shall be entered as a conviction and treated the same as if the accused pleaded no contest.
 - (d) If the person cited is under 18 years old, the court shall promptly mail a copy or notice of the citation to the address as shown on the citation, to the attention of the parent or guardian of the defendant.
- (2) If the individual pleads not guilty to the offense charged, further proceedings shall be held in accordance with the Rules of Criminal Procedure and all other applicable provisions of this code.

Amended by Chapter 284, 2026 General Session

TAB 5



Administrative Office of the Courts

**Chief Justice Matthew B.
Durrant**
Utah Supreme Court
Chair, Utah Judicial Council

August 26, 2026

Ronald B. Gordon, Jr.
State Court Administrator
Neira Siaperas
Deputy State Court
Administrator

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Advisory Committee on the Rules of Juvenile Procedure (Committee)

FROM: Zerina Ocanovic, Deputy Juvenile Court Administrator

RE: Committee's Consideration of Self-Help Center Representation

Members of the Advisory Committee on the Rules of Juvenile Procedure (Committee),

The below proposal is intended to formally request the Committee's consideration of representation from the Utah Court's Self-Help Center on the Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on the Rules of Juvenile Procedure.

As the Committee is aware, amendments to the Utah Rules of Juvenile Procedure often require corresponding updates to court forms, instructions, educational materials, and other public-facing resources. The Utah Self-Help Center plays an important role in this process by developing and maintaining resources for self-represented litigants and assisting court users in understanding and navigating court procedures. This day-to-day involvement gives Self-Help attorneys a practical perspective on how proposed rule changes may affect court forms, guidance, and implementation.

Additionally, Self-Help Center attorneys routinely identify intersections between the Utah Rules of Juvenile Procedure and other procedural rules, including the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure. Their involvement can help promote consistency across rule sets and identify implementation considerations before rule amendments become effective. Involving a Self-Help Center attorney during the rule development process, rather than after amendments are adopted, allows operational issues to be identified and addressed early, resulting in a more efficient implementation process statewide.



Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Matthew B. Durrant
Utah Supreme Court
Chair, Utah Judicial Council

August 26, 2026

Ronald B. Gordon, Jr.
State Court Administrator
Neira Siaperas
Deputy State Court
Administrator

While Juvenile Judges, the Deputy Juvenile Court Administrator, Juvenile Law Clerk Attorneys, and other Juvenile Court staff routinely support the Committee's work by responding to questions and providing feedback as needed, there is currently no consistent representation from the Utah Self-Help Center during Committee discussions.

[SCRP Rule 1-101](#) allows for formal membership on Supreme Court committees to individuals who represent the legal community. Previously, the Committee has determined that including a Clerk of Court and a Chief Probation Officer as members was beneficial, and those positions were added upon approval. Additionally, the Utah Self-Help Center currently serves on the Advisory Committee on the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, where its participation provides valuable insight into rule implementation, coordination of court forms, and procedural consistency. In light of that experience, the following options are presented for the Committee's consideration:

Formal Membership Option

The Committee to consider requesting Supreme Court approval to add a Self-Help Center attorney as a member of the Committee, recognizing the valuable perspective the attorney could bring to shaping rules that directly affect self-represented litigants.

Non-Voting Participation Option

Alternatively, if the Committee prefers not to expand formal membership, the Committee could allow a Self-Help Center attorney to attend meetings as a non-voting participant. This individual would attend in a listening capacity and be available to respond to questions during discussions with potential impact on self-represented parties.

Either approach would allow the Committee to benefit from operational insight while preserving the Committee's structure and decision-making authority.

Adding a Self-Help attorney would provide valuable implementation and operational expertise during the rulemaking process. Their participation could help identify practical considerations earlier, improve coordination and consistency between procedural rules and court resources, and support timely updates to forms and guidance before rule amendments take effect.



Administrative Office of the Courts

**Chief Justice Matthew B.
Durrant**
Utah Supreme Court
Chair, Utah Judicial Council

August 26, 2026

Ronald B. Gordon, Jr.
State Court Administrator
Neira Siaperas
Deputy State Court
Administrator

This request is submitted with full recognition of the Committee's discretion in determining its composition and procedures. The intent is not to alter the Committee's existing processes, but to consider whether adding a Self-Help Center attorney could further strengthen the Committee's work and provide a valuable statewide perspective.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Zerina Ocanovic
Deputy Juvenile Court Administrator