



# Department of Criminal Justice

## Division and Teams



# **Agency at a Glance**

**DOCJ, and the divisions housed within our commission, all have distinct missions which are unique from the state's criminal justice agencies. DOCJ is the only policy coordination body for Utah's criminal justice stakeholders and the primary granting agency for the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and other state funded criminal justice grants. Additionally, DOCJ is a leader in the field of criminal justice in Utah and serves as the only agency that provides indigent defense and crime victims services at the state level.**

# Divisions & Teams

We are an office with diverse experience working together to create a better criminal and juvenile justice for all.



# **Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice**

**DOCJ staffing is led by the executive director and comprised of individuals from various educational backgrounds with a wide range of experiences to support commissioners in forming and implementing justice policies that rest on best practices. The Commission consists of nineteen statutorily delegated members.**

# Sentencing Commission

**The Sentencing Commission has the statutory responsibility to advise the Legislature, the Governor, and the Judicial Council regarding sentencing and release policy for adults and juveniles who have committed crimes. There are seventeen statutorily delegated members.**

# Juvenile Justice

**Within DOCJ, there are three groups focused on juvenile justice: The Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee, the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice, and the Racial and Ethnic Disparities Collaborative to advance policies and practices that promote a just and equitable juvenile system.**

# Victim Services Commission

**Created in 2023, the Victim Services Commission's goal is to generate unity for ongoing efforts to reduce and eliminate the impact of crime on victims through a comprehensive and evidence-based prevention, treatment, and justice strategy. There are \*fourteen statutorily delegated members.**

# Office for Victims of Crime

**Established by the Utah Legislature in February 1986, the mission of the Utah Office for Victims of Crime is to advocate for the rights and needs of crime victims in Utah by assisting in their restoration through financial compensation and other victim services.**

# Grants

**DOCJ provides supplemental funding through state and federal grants to Utah state agencies, counties, municipalities, and other local organizations that provide programs and services which support and improve the criminal and juvenile justice ecosystem in Utah. The Grants team develops funding strategies for Commission approval and establishes projects throughout the State, while providing ongoing programmatic support, financial compliance monitoring, and training to grantees.**

# Data & Research

**DOCJ is responsible for a wide-ranging research agenda that supports the development of new justice policies in Utah. The data and research team is responsible for conducting and coordinating research across Utah's criminal and juvenile justice systems while expanding current data capabilities and data system integration efforts.**

# Behavior Treatment and Management

**Within DOCJ, there are two groups focused on behavior treatment and management. The first is the Domestic Violence Offender Treatment Board, and the second is the \*Sex Offense Management Advisory Committee.**

# Indigent Defense Commission

**Created in 2016, the Utah Indigent Defense Commission protects constitutionally guaranteed liberties through ongoing support for effective indigent defense services throughout the state.**

# Judicial Nominating Commission

**DOCJ oversees and staffs the judicial nominating commissions. The Utah Constitution establishes merit selection as the exclusive method of choosing a state court judge. There are four steps in Utah's merit selection plan: 1) Nomination - made by a judicial nomination commission, 2) Appointment by the Governor, 3) Confirmation by the state Senate, and 4) Retention election.**

# Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission

**The Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC) conducts performance evaluations of all state judges. JPEC provides ongoing evaluations to judges with the aim of continuously improving the quality of the judiciary. As judges stand for retention elections, the Commission publishes the evaluation report and determines whether the judge meets or exceeds performance standards or fails to meet them. Voters ultimately decide whether each judge will continue to serve in office.**

# Prosecutor Conduct Commission

**Newly created in 2025, the Prosecutor Conduct Commission duties include receiving, initiating, investigating, or hearing complaints of alleged professional misconduct by a prosecuting attorney and reporting, gathering and publishing data on claims of professional misconduct by prosecuting attorneys.**