



Utah Indigent  
Defense Commission

# IDC Interim Study Proposal

February 12, 2020

## OVERVIEW

The Utah Indigent Defense Commission (IDC) protects constitutionally guaranteed liberties through ongoing support for effective indigent defense services in the state. Created in 2016, the IDC works to meet its mandate through information and data collection, the creation of standards for local governments, providing public defender training, and awarding state-funding to help local systems meet those standards.

## GOALS

The Utah Legislature wants to better understand: the scope of indigent defense services required in Utah, and the models that create a sustainable state and local partnership for indigent defense services. The Utah Indigent Defense Commission shall study and propose a Utah Solution to indigent defense.

The proposal for the Utah Solution shall:

1. Develop performance measures for local systems and attorneys to successfully:
  - a. Meet the IDC's core principles, and;
  - b. Provide constitutionally effective representation in adult criminal, juvenile delinquency, and parental defense cases in the state.
2. Rely on shared state and local funding.
3. Consider other state's models of successful shared, state and locally-funded indigent defense services; and
4. Consider Utah's unique challenges and resources.

The IDC shall:

1. Identify the appropriate Utah Solution;
2. Identify goals and incremental milestones to achieving the Utah Solution;
3. Identify the challenges to achieving those milestones;
4. Identify solutions to each challenge; and;
5. Submit a proposal with an action plan to the Executive and Legislative Branches by December 18, 2020.