

Juvenile Code Recodification

Overview of Recodification | August 19, 2020

What is recodification?

Recodification is the restructuring and reorganization of sections in the Utah Code. At times, significant restructuring of the Utah Code is required because (1) an existing title, chapter, or part needs to be replaced; (2) an existing title, chapter, or part needs to be substantially reworked; or (3) an existing title, chapter, or part needs to be renumbered to allow for future growth in the Utah Code.

The Juvenile Code Recodification is a significant restructuring of the Juvenile Court Act and related juvenile statutes to clarify and restructure juvenile law and to allow for future growth of chapters, parts, and sections in the Utah Code.

What will the proposed recodification do?

- **Enact Title 80, Juvenile Code:**

- Most of the Juvenile Court Act will be renumbered and amended to Title 80.
- Title 80 will be structured as follows:

Chapter 1	General Provisions
Chapter 2	Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Proceedings
Chapter 3	Termination and Restoration of Parental Rights Proceedings
Chapter 4	Emancipation
Chapter 5	Guardian Ad Litem
Chapter 6	Delinquency and Criminal Proceedings

- **Amend Title 78A, Chapter 6, Juvenile Court Act**

- The remaining parts of the Juvenile Court Act will be cleaned up to reflect the substantive changes to the Act.

- **Amend Title 62A, Chapter 4a, Child and Family Services, and Chapter 7, Juvenile Justice Services**

- Certain statutes in Chapter 4a will be moved to Title 80 or amended to accommodate changes in the Juvenile Court Act.
- Certain statutes in Chapter 7 will be moved to Title 80 and the remaining statutes in Chapter 7 will be cleaned up to ensure there is consistency in the use of defined terms.

What policy issues will the recodification likely address?

The recodification will:

- clarify the processes for juvenile delinquency and child welfare;
- clean-up jurisdictional statutes related to juvenile courts;
- clarify custody of a minor by the Division of Juvenile Justice Services;
- clean-up intent language in juvenile statutes;
- clarify warrant requirements for juvenile proceedings;
- remove redundant language, including language covered by the Utah Rules of Juvenile Procedure; and
- clean-up inconsistencies and ambiguous language in juvenile statutes.