

**RETALIATION AND OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE**

**AMENDMENTS**

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Craig Hall**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill makes changes to certain criminal statutes regarding interfering with an investigation or legal proceeding.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ makes threatening or harming a prosecutor in relation to a criminal proceeding a felony;
- ▶ adds certain threatening communications to the list of crimes constituting obstruction of justice; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**53-10-403**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapters 142, 214, and 415

**76-8-306**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 213



28 **76-8-316**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapter 432

29 

---

30 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

31 Section 1. Section **53-10-403** is amended to read:

32 **53-10-403. DNA specimen analysis -- Application to offenders, including minors.**

33 (1) Sections **53-10-403.6**, **53-10-404**, **53-10-404.5**, **53-10-405**, and **53-10-406** apply to  
34 any person who:

35 (a) has pled guilty to or has been convicted of any of the offenses under Subsection  
36 (2)(a) or (b) on or after July 1, 2002;

37 (b) has pled guilty to or has been convicted by any other state or by the United States  
38 government of an offense which if committed in this state would be punishable as one or more  
39 of the offenses listed in Subsection (2)(a) or (b) on or after July 1, 2003;

40 (c) has been booked on or after January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2014, for any  
41 offense under Subsection (2)(c);

42 (d) has been booked:

43 (i) by a law enforcement agency that is obtaining a DNA specimen on or after May 13,  
44 2014, through December 31, 2014, under Subsection **53-10-404(4)(b)** for any felony offense; or

45 (ii) on or after January 1, 2015, for any felony offense; or

46 (e) is a minor under Subsection (3).

47 (2) Offenses referred to in Subsection (1) are:

48 (a) any felony or class A misdemeanor under the Utah Code;

49 (b) any offense under Subsection (2)(a):

50 (i) for which the court enters a judgment for conviction to a lower degree of offense  
51 under Section **76-3-402**; or

52 (ii) regarding which the court allows the defendant to enter a plea in abeyance as  
53 defined in Section **77-2a-1**; or

54 (c) (i) any violent felony as defined in Section **53-10-403.5**;

55 (ii) sale or use of body parts, Section **26-28-116**;

56 (iii) failure to stop at an accident that resulted in death, Section **41-6a-401.5**;

57 (iv) driving with any amount of a controlled substance in a person's body and causing  
58 serious bodily injury or death, Subsection **58-37-8(2)(g)**;

- 59 (v) a felony violation of enticing a minor over the Internet, Section 76-4-401;
- 60 (vi) a felony violation of propelling a substance or object at a correctional officer, a  
61 peace officer, or an employee or a volunteer, including health care providers, Section  
62 76-5-102.6;
- 63 (vii) aggravated human trafficking and aggravated human smuggling, Section  
64 76-5-310;
- 65 (viii) a felony violation of unlawful sexual activity with a minor, Section 76-5-401;
- 66 (ix) a felony violation of sexual abuse of a minor, Section 76-5-401.1;
- 67 (x) unlawful sexual contact with a 16 or 17-year old, Section 76-5-401.2;
- 68 (xi) sale of a child, Section 76-7-203;
- 69 (xii) aggravated escape, Subsection 76-8-309(2);
- 70 (xiii) a felony violation of assault on an elected official, Section 76-8-315;
- 71 (xiv) influencing, impeding, or retaliating against a judge, prosecuting attorney, or  
72 member of the Board of Pardons and Parole, Section 76-8-316;
- 73 (xv) advocating criminal syndicalism or sabotage, Section 76-8-902;
- 74 (xvi) assembly for advocating criminal syndicalism or sabotage, Section 76-8-903;
- 75 (xvii) a felony violation of sexual battery, Section 76-9-702.1;
- 76 (xviii) a felony violation of lewdness involving a child, Section 76-9-702.5;
- 77 (xix) a felony violation of abuse or desecration of a dead human body, Section  
78 76-9-704;
- 79 (xx) manufacture, possession, sale, or use of a weapon of mass destruction, Section  
80 76-10-402;
- 81 (xxi) manufacture, possession, sale, or use of a hoax weapon of mass destruction,  
82 Section 76-10-403;
- 83 (xxii) possession of a concealed firearm in the commission of a violent felony,  
84 Subsection 76-10-504(4);
- 85 (xxiii) assault with the intent to commit bus hijacking with a dangerous weapon,  
86 Subsection 76-10-1504(3);
- 87 (xxiv) commercial obstruction, Subsection 76-10-2402(2);
- 88 (xxv) a felony violation of failure to register as a sex or kidnap offender, Section  
89 77-41-107;

90 (xxvi) repeat violation of a protective order, Subsection 77-36-1.1(2)(c); or

91 (xxvii) violation of condition for release after arrest under Section 78B-7-802.

92 (3) A minor under Subsection (1) is a minor 14 years old or older who is adjudicated  
93 by the juvenile court due to the commission of any offense described in Subsection (2), and  
94 who:

95 (a) committed an offense under Subsection (2) within the jurisdiction of the juvenile  
96 court on or after July 1, 2002; or

97 (b) is in the legal custody of the Division of Juvenile Justice Services on or after July 1,  
98 2002, for an offense under Subsection (2).

99 Section 2. Section 76-8-306 is amended to read:

100 **76-8-306. Obstruction of justice in criminal investigations or proceedings --**

101 **Elements -- Penalties -- Exceptions.**

102 (1) As used in this section "conduct that constitutes a criminal offense" means conduct  
103 that would be punishable as a crime and is separate from a violation of this section, including:

104 (a) any violation of a criminal statute or ordinance of the state, a political subdivision  
105 of the state, another state, or a district, possession, or territory of the United States; and

106 (b) conduct committed by a juvenile that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

107 [(+)] (2) An actor commits obstruction of justice if the actor, with intent to hinder,  
108 delay, or prevent the investigation, apprehension, prosecution, conviction, or punishment of  
109 ~~[any person]~~ an individual regarding conduct that constitutes a criminal offense:

110 (a) provides ~~[any person]~~ an individual with a weapon;

111 (b) prevents by force, intimidation, or deception, ~~[any person]~~ an individual from  
112 performing any act that might aid in the discovery, apprehension, prosecution, conviction, or  
113 punishment of ~~[any]~~ a person;

114 (c) alters, destroys, conceals, or removes ~~[any item or other thing]~~ an item;

115 (d) makes, presents, or uses ~~[any]~~ an item or thing known by the actor to be false;

116 (e) harbors or conceals ~~[a person]~~ an individual;

117 (f) provides ~~[a person]~~ an individual with transportation, disguise, or other means of  
118 avoiding discovery or apprehension;

119 (g) warns ~~[any person]~~ an individual of impending discovery or apprehension;

120 (h) warns ~~[any person]~~ an individual of an order authorizing the interception of wire

121 communications or of a pending application for an order authorizing the interception of wire  
122 communications;

123 (i) conceals information that is not privileged and that concerns the offense, after a  
124 judge or magistrate has ordered the actor to provide the information; or

125 (j) provides false information regarding a suspect, a witness, the conduct constituting  
126 an offense, or any other material aspect of the investigation.

127 ~~[(2) (a) As used in this section, "conduct that constitutes a criminal offense" means~~  
128 ~~conduct that would be punishable as a crime and is separate from a violation of this section,~~  
129 ~~and includes:]~~

130 ~~[(i) any violation of a criminal statute or ordinance of this state, its political~~  
131 ~~subdivisions, any other state, or any district, possession, or territory of the United States; and]~~

132 ~~[(ii) conduct committed by a juvenile which would be a crime if committed by an~~  
133 ~~adult.]~~

134 ~~[(b) A] (3) For purposes of this section, a violation of a criminal statute that is~~  
135 ~~committed in another state, or [any] a district, possession, or territory of the United States, is a:~~

136 ~~[(i) (a) capital felony if the penalty provided includes death or life imprisonment~~  
137 ~~without parole;~~

138 ~~[(ii) (b) a first degree felony if the penalty provided includes life imprisonment with~~  
139 ~~parole or a maximum term of imprisonment exceeding 15 years;~~

140 ~~[(iii) (c) a second degree felony if the penalty provided exceeds five years;~~

141 ~~[(iv) (d) a third degree felony if the penalty provided includes imprisonment for any~~  
142 ~~period exceeding one year; and~~

143 ~~[(v) (e) a misdemeanor if the penalty provided includes imprisonment for any period~~  
144 ~~of one year or less.~~

145 ~~[(3) (4) Obstruction of justice is:~~

146 (a) a second degree felony if the conduct which constitutes an offense would be a  
147 capital felony or first degree felony;

148 (b) a third degree felony if:

149 (i) the conduct that constitutes an offense would be a second or third degree felony and  
150 the actor violates Subsection ~~[(1) (2)]~~(b), (c), (d), (e), or (f);

151 (ii) the conduct that constitutes an offense would be any offense other than a capital or

152 first degree felony and the actor violates Subsection [(1+)] (2)(a);

153 (iii) the obstruction of justice is presented or committed before a court of law; or

154 (iv) a violation of Subsection [(1+)] (2)(h); or

155 (c) a class A misdemeanor for any violation of this section that is not enumerated under

156 Subsection [(3)] (4)(a) or (b).

157 [(4)] (5) It is not a defense that the actor was unaware of the level of penalty for the

158 conduct constituting an offense.

159 [(5)] (6) Subsection [(1+)] (2)(e) does not apply to harboring a youth offender, which is

160 governed by Section 62A-7-402.

161 [(6)] (7) Subsection [(1+)] (2)(b) does not apply to:

162 (a) tampering with a juror, which is governed by Section 76-8-508.5;

163 (b) influencing, impeding, or retaliating against a judge, prosecuting attorney, or

164 member of the Board of Pardons and Parole, which is governed by Section 76-8-316;

165 (c) tampering with a witness or soliciting or receiving a bribe, which is governed by

166 Section 76-8-508;

167 (d) retaliation against a witness, victim, or informant, which is governed by Section

168 76-8-508.3; or

169 (e) extortion or bribery to dismiss a criminal proceeding, which is governed by Section

170 76-8-509.

171 [(7)] (8) Notwithstanding Subsection [(1+), (2), or (3)] (2), (3), or (4), an actor commits

172 a third degree felony if the actor harbors or conceals an offender who has escaped from official

173 custody as defined in Section 76-8-309.

174 Section 3. Section 76-8-316 is amended to read:

175 **76-8-316. Influencing, impeding, or retaliating against a judge or member of the**

176 **Board of Pardons and Parole or acting against a family member of a judge or a member**

177 **of the Board of Pardons and Parole.**

178 (1) As used in this section:

179 (a) "Board member" means an appointed member of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

180 (b) "Court official" means a judge, prosecuting attorney, or board member.

181 [(b)] (c) "Family member" means [parents] an individual's parent, spouse, surviving

182 spouse, [~~children, and siblings of a judge or board member~~] child, or sibling.

183           ~~(c)~~ (d) "Judge" means judges of all courts of record and courts not of record and court  
184 commissioners.

185           (e) "Prosecuting attorney" means an attorney involved in the criminal prosecution of a  
186 defendant.

187           (2) ~~[A person]~~ An individual is guilty of a third degree felony if ~~[the person threatens]~~:

188           (a) the individual makes a credible threat to assault, kidnap, or murder a ~~[judge, a~~  
189 ~~family member of a judge, a board member, or a family member of a board member]~~ court  
190 official or a family member of a court official with the intent to:

191           (i) impede, intimidate, or interfere with the ~~[judge or board member]~~ court official  
192 while engaged in the performance of the ~~[judge's or board member's]~~ court official's official  
193 duties; or ~~[with the intent to]~~

194           (ii) retaliate against the ~~[judge or board member]~~ court official on account of the  
195 performance of those official duties~~[-];~~ and

196           (b) the court official or family member of a court official who is the subject of the  
197 threat reasonably believes the individual will perform the threatened act.

198           (3) ~~[A person]~~ An individual is guilty of a second degree felony if the ~~[person]~~  
199 individual commits an assault on a ~~[judge, a family member of a judge, a board member, or a~~  
200 ~~family member of a board member]~~ court official or a family member of a court official with  
201 the intent to:

202           (a) impede, intimidate, or interfere with the ~~[judge or board member]~~ court official  
203 while engaged in the performance of the ~~[judge's or board member's]~~ court official's official  
204 duties~~[-; or with the intent to];~~ or

205           (b) retaliate against the ~~[judge or board member]~~ court official on account of the  
206 performance of those official duties.

207           (4) ~~[A person]~~ An individual is guilty of a first degree felony if the ~~[person]~~ individual  
208 commits aggravated assault on a ~~[judge, a family member of a judge, a board member, or a~~  
209 ~~family member of a board member]~~ court official or a family member of a court official with  
210 the intent to:

211           (a) impede, intimidate, or interfere with the ~~[judge or board member]~~ court official  
212 while engaged in the performance of the ~~[judge's or board member's]~~ court official's official  
213 duties; or ~~[with the intent to]~~

214           **(b)** retaliate against the [~~judge or board member~~] court official on account of the  
215 performance of those official duties.

216           **(5)** [~~A person~~] An individual is guilty of a first degree felony if the [~~person~~] individual  
217 commits attempted murder on a family member of a [~~judge or a family member of a board~~  
218 ~~member~~] court official with the intent to:

219           **(a)** impede, intimidate, or interfere with the [~~judge or board member~~] court official  
220 while engaged in the performance of the [~~judge's or board member's~~] court official's official  
221 duties; or [~~with the intent to~~]

222           **(b)** retaliate against the [~~judge or board member~~] court official on account of the  
223 performance of those official duties.

224           **(6)** A member of the Board of Pardons and Parole is an executive officer for purposes  
225 of Subsection [76-5-202\(1\)\(m\)](#).