

**AGREEMENT FOR TEMPORARY INDIGENT DEFENSE ATTORNEY
2ND DISTRICT JUVENILE COURT**

This agreement is made effective the 6th of Dec 2024, by and between Weber County, a body politic and political subdivision of the State of Utah (“County”) and Jessica Peterson (“Attorney”). County and Attorney are sometimes referred to individually as “Party” and collectively as “Parties.”

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Indigent Defense Act, as set forth in Title 78B, Chapter 22 Utah Code Ann., County has the responsibility to provide legal counsel to every indigent person who faces the substantial probability of deprivation of his or her liberty; and

WHEREAS, Attorney is an active member of the Utah State Bar Association in good standing and admitted to practice law before the courts of the State of Utah; and

WHEREAS, Attorney is willing to represent indigent persons in the Second District Juvenile Court (Delinquencies) when appointed by the Court;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises contained hereafter, the Parties agree as follows:

**SECTION ONE
SERVICES**

1. Attorney shall fulfill the following specific assignments:
 - a. **Juvenile Court:** Attorney agrees to provide competent legal counsel to any juvenile facing a delinquency action in the 2nd District Juvenile Court (Ogden), who is appointed Attorney as counsel by the Second District Juvenile Court, and who is deemed by the court to be indigent (“Clients”). Attorney will represent Clients in all delinquency proceedings before the court including scheduling conferences, hearings, trials, probation violation hearings, restitution hearings, and all other substantive matters to ensure adequate representation.
2. Attorney agrees to promptly notify the court of any changes with regard to the indigent status of any Clients which would affect the qualifying of the Clients for court-appointed counsel.
3. Attorney agrees to be supervised by an attorney who has been hired by County and designated as assistant director, Juvenile Division (Asst. Director) and to accept assignments from said Asst. Director to cover specific court calendars and other hearings as necessary.
4. Attorney agrees to provide the Asst. Director with various caseload information on a monthly basis in a format approved by the Asst. Director. Attorney will use Defender Data,

or other software that may be required by the County, as a means of tracking and reporting various information about Attorney's assigned cases.

5. Attorney shall notify the Asst. Director whenever attorney receives written notice from the Utah State Bar Association regarding a bar complaint or investigation involving Attorney.
6. Attorney will seek to identify potential conflicts or complaints that persons may have against Attorney and work diligently to avoid any complaints being lodged against Attorney. Attorney will immediately communicate to the Asst. Director any complaints that are lodged by anyone against Attorney and work diligently to resolve any such complaints.
7. Attorney will be responsible for scanning any paper files once they are closed and destroying the hard copy of the file. In the event that Attorney fails to scan closed paper files and destroy the hard copies, County may withhold the costs for doing so from Attorney's paycheck. Attorney agrees to cooperate with Director in transferring the digital copies of closed files to the Director.
8. Attorney will assist Director in the development of a list of court-approved expert witnesses and make diligent efforts to utilize only those expert witnesses found on such list. If Attorney feels it necessary to utilize an expert witness who is not on the approved list, Attorney agrees to consult with the Director before making any such request.
9. Upon request, Attorney shall submit to Director an electronic copy of any motion, memoranda, appellate brief, court report, or any other such report pertaining to Attorney's Clients under this Agreement.
10. Attorney agrees to make reasonable efforts to attend all of the periodic public defender training/coordination meetings and to attend performance evaluations as requested by the Director.
11. Attorney agrees to use his/her best efforts to avoid any conflicts of interest, which would divide loyalty of Attorney to Clients. The Parties recognize that certain cases may arise where conflicts are of sufficient magnitude that the Attorney cannot represent a particular Client. Conflicts of interest shall only be deemed to exist after a determination of the appointing Court.

SECTION TWO CONDUCT

12. If at any time Attorney's caseload becomes sufficiently burdensome to create an ineffective assistance of counsel issue or could cause the attorney to be in violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, Attorney shall immediately notify the Director to determine a proper course of action to remedy the situation. Resolution may include but not be limited to, reassigning a case or cases; assigning an additional attorney for complex cases; reducing or eliminating private practice matters, or other solutions.

13. Attorney agrees to abide by the rules of Professional Conduct of the American Bar Association, the Utah State Bar Association, and the laws of the State of Utah, including but not necessarily limited to the provisions of Chapter 32 of Title 77, Utah Code Ann. (1953, as amended).
14. Attorney agrees to keep abreast of all current legal trends in the area of criminal defense and to maintain sufficient continuing professional education credits during the period of this Agreement.
15. Throughout the term of this Agreement, Attorney agrees to be available to meet with Clients. This requirement can be met by utilizing meeting rooms/conference room at the WPDG Office or through maintaining a private office in Weber County. Attorney agrees to be reasonably available and accessible to all Clients, to make reasonable efforts to visit clients who are incarcerated, and to return telephone calls as soon as reasonably possible.

SECTION THREE COVERAGE

16. Attorney is expected to provide coverage for other contract attorneys when necessary and when Attorney is available to provide coverage. When possible, the attorneys should attempt to trade coverage at the time coverage is procured. When a simultaneous trade is not possible, the attorney whose calendar was covered should make reasonable efforts to reciprocate coverage for the attorney who covered for him/her upon request.
17. When Attorney will miss his/her regular court assignment due to trial, vacation, seminar, etc., Attorney shall arrange with another contract attorney to cover Attorney's court. If Attorney fails to procure coverage and does not appear at Attorney's court assignment, the sum of \$600 shall be deducted from Attorney's pay and paid to the attorney[s] who provided coverage for Attorney (if any is provided). The arrangement for court coverage shall be coordinated with the Director.
18. Attorney shall represent indigent defendants that would typically be assigned to other contract attorneys when the court deems there is a conflict of interest preventing the other contract attorney from representing the indigent defendant. Any such representation shall be at no additional cost to County, with such assignments being made under the direction of the Director.
19. Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit Attorney from representing private clients so long as the representation of private clients does not interfere with or create a conflict of interest in the representation of Clients appointed under this Agreement.

SECTION FOUR COMPENSATION

20. County agrees to pay Attorney the following amounts annually:

Basis for Amount	Amount
Delinquency cases (3 month contract)	\$22,815

Payment shall be made to the Attorney in equal monthly installments of \$7,605.00 per month. The first installment is due before the end of December 2025 which will be pro rated for the first month. The monthly installments shall continue on or before the last day of each month thereafter until this agreement expires or is terminated.

24. Attorney's compensation is based on the number of years Attorney has practiced. County agrees to increase the compensation paid under this Agreement each year. Increases shall be in an amount determined by County and shall be based on the amount of the increase that County employees receive for that same year.

**SECTION FIVE
INSURANCE**

26. Attorney agrees to maintain professional malpractice insurance with limits of \$100,000 per person and an aggregate of \$300,000 and provide to County evidence of the insurance.
27. Attorney shall indemnify and save the County and its officers, agents, and employees harmless from and against all claims for damages or injuries resulting from any claimed malpractice, injury, death, damages, and any other causes of action arising directly or indirectly from the performance of this Agreement by the Attorney.

**SECTION SIX
REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES**

28. The WPDG has an annual budget which covers expenses necessarily incurred in providing effective and competent representation for Indigent Clients. Appropriate expenses may include, but are not limited to investigator fees, transcripts, laboratory costs, defense witness fees, and interpreter fees. Attorney hereby agrees to use his/her best efforts to minimize the cost and expenses. Attorney shall be responsible for all other expenses in providing the services contemplated herein, including transportation, office costs, telephone, postage, copying, scanning, and secretarial costs.
29. To access funds to cover necessary expenses, Attorney shall first consult with the Director for prior approval. If prior approval is granted Attorney will be instructed by the Director and Office Manager regarding procedures for securing services and for the invoicing and payment of expenses.

30. Any expense incurred by Attorney that is not previously approved by the Director or the court or in excess of that approved by the Director or the court, shall be the sole responsibility of the Attorney.

**SECTION SEVEN
TERM AND TERMINATION**

31. The term of this Agreement shall be from December 6, 2024 through March 6, 2025.
32. This Agreement may be terminated at any time for cause. Cause shall include but not be limited to a suspension or revocation of Attorney's license to practice law in the State of Utah, a breach of this Agreement, or behavior that brings disrepute to other contract attorneys or to the County.
33. In the event this Agreement is terminated or is not renewed, Attorney agrees to cooperate with his/her successor including the filing of all necessary pleadings for withdrawal and to deliver all applicable files, information, and materials to the successor.

**SECTION EIGHT
MISCELLANEOUS**

34. Notice. Any notice required by this Agreement shall be given in writing addressed to the following unless otherwise designated in writing.

FOR THE COUNTY:

Director
Weber Public Defender Group
2380 Washington Blvd., Suite 100
Ogden, UT 84401

FOR THE ATTORNEY:

Jessica Peterson
1229 Foxcrest Drive
Park City, UT 84098

35. Appeal. In the event that Attorney files a Notice of Appeal to the Utah Court of Appeals and/or the Utah Supreme Court, Attorney shall immediately contact the Director to transition and turn over all relevant records within Attorney's possession or control to Appellate Counsel.
36. Modification. This Agreement can be changed, modified, or amended only by written agreement of the Parties.
37. Assignment. Attorney may not assign this Agreement or his performance under it, in whole or in part, without the prior written approval of the County.
38. Independent Contractor. Attorney is an independent contractor providing professional legal services to the County and is not an employee of the State of Utah or the County. Attorney is not entitled to any of the benefits of employment such as, but not limited to, retirement,

health, or Workers Compensation coverage. Attorney is responsible to pay all taxes and fees that result from the compensation paid to Attorney under this Agreement.

39. Entire Agreement. This Agreement shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties and any prior understanding or representation of any kind preceding the date of this Agreement shall not be binding upon either Party except to the extent incorporated in this Agreement.

40. Laws. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Utah.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned have affixed their respective signatures hereto the dates indicated below.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WEBER COUNTY

By _____
Jim Harvey, Chair
Date _____

Commissioner Harvey voted _____
Commissioner Bolos voted _____
Commissioner Froerer voted _____


ATTEST:

Ricky Hatch, CPA
Weber County

ATTORNEY

PUBLIC DEFENDER DIRECTOR

By ~~/s/ Jessica Peterson~~ _____
Jessica Peterson
Date 12/30/2024 _____

By  _____
James M. Retallick
Date 01/03/2025 _____