

GENERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER AGREEMENT

[NAME]

THIS AGREEMENT is between WASHINGTON COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of Utah, hereinafter referred to as COUNTY, and \_\_\_\_\_, an attorney licensed by the Utah State Bar Association, hereinafter referred to as DEFENDER.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Utah Code Ann. § 77-32-301(1) requires the COUNTY to provide for the competent defense of indigent defendants in criminal cases in the Washington County Justice Court and Utah Fifth District Court in Washington County; and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY may fulfill its statutory obligation through the appointment of qualified legal counsel, who may provide the indigent services required by Utah law; and

WHEREAS, DEFENDER is a qualified, trained and competent attorney, licensed and in good standing to practice law in the State of Utah and is willing to enter into this agreement with the COUNTY to perform the necessary legal services for indigent defendants;

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual agreements contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

SECTION 1: CONSIDERATION

1.1 COUNTY does hereby engage DEFENDER to perform services as legal counsel for indigent defendants as set forth herein and shall pay DEFENDER Five Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Three Dollars (\$5,363.00) per month during the term of this agreement. However, Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per month are contingent on ongoing grant funding. This contract may be renewed from year to year as provided by law upon written agreement of both parties.

1.2. In addition to the compensation set forth in paragraph 1.1, the COUNTY will pay for expenses incurred for (1) witness fees, (2) costs of transcripts or depositions on any first appeal as of right, (3) costs of printing or typing briefs on any first appeal of right, (4) investigatory costs, and (5) other extraordinary expenses as defined by Utah Code Ann. § 77-32-305.5 (1953, as amended).

1.3 Upon approval by the lead public defender, the County will reimburse DEFENDER up to \$500.00 for continuing legal education expenses related to the performance of DEFENDER's duties under this agreement.

1.4 DEFENDER shall be responsible for paying all other expenses necessary to perform the required services, including but not limited to travel costs, research, additional copies, word processing expenses, paralegal assistance, and legal clerks, etc., such costs being expressly included in the contract price.

1.5 Upon a showing of critical need, DEFENDER may request additional funding for extraordinary unforeseen expenses which may arise during the term of this agreement.

1.6 It is specifically understood that DEFENDER will accept no other payment for work provided under this agreement, other than that compensation provided in the agreement under this section. In the event a court orders restitution from any defendant for attorney fees and costs, all such restitution shall belong to the COUNTY.

SECTION 2: SERVICES

2.1 DEFENDER agrees to perform the duties set forth in Utah law for any indigent criminal defendants assigned to DEFENDER by any applicable court within Washington County during the term of this agreement. The duties shall be carried out in compliance with any applicable standards adopted by the Utah Indigent Defense Commission and specifically include, but are not limited to:

- a. providing timely and competent legal representation;
- b. utilizing the defense resources necessary for a complete defense;
- c. assuring undivided loyalty to the client; and
- d. prosecuting other remedies before or after a conviction, considered by DEFENDER to be in the interest of justice.

2.2. DEFENDER agrees that the duties encompassed by this agreement require DEFENDER to represent approximately one-eighth of all adult indigent criminal cases assigned to a public defender by the applicable courts within Washington County during the term of this agreement. DEFENDER agrees to cooperate with other public defenders and the courts in Washington County in determining the method and means for allocating indigent cases and to abide by the method implemented.

2.3 DEFENDER shall devote the necessary time and resources to perform legal services required under guidelines and standards as set forth in the Utah Rules of Professional Responsibility, and other such regulations and statutes as shall govern the practice of law in the State of Utah together with such other regulations or statutory provisions to which DEFENDER may be subject as a result of state or federal law. DEFENDER agrees to maintain adequate and proper records of the representation for each indigent defendant.

2.4 DEFENDER understands and agrees that accessibility to indigent defendants is an integral consideration in making this agreement. Therefore, DEFENDER agrees to communicate with and be available and accessible to indigent clients as necessary for a competent defense. DEFENDER agrees to make reasonable efforts to visit indigent clients who are incarcerated in jail, admitted to a hospital or otherwise confined at the earliest possible moment. DEFENDER agrees to return telephone calls as soon as reasonably possible and to otherwise be reasonably accessible to all indigent defendants.

2.5 DEFENDER agrees not to carry a workload that, by reason of its excessive size, interferes with the rendering of quality representation, endangers the client's interests in any respect, or may lead to the breach of professional obligations. Workload includes not only the number of cases, but also includes the seriousness of the cases, the number of charges involved in individual cases, and the time required to adequately represent each client.

2.6 If DEFENDER engages in the private practice of law or has entered into more than one public defender contract with any entity, including the COUNTY, DEFENDER agrees to associate with a sufficient number of qualified attorneys to meet the obligations of this agreement with respect to each public defender client. DEFENDER agrees to actively supervise and monitor the performance of any associate attorneys to assure compliance with the terms of this agreement. DEFENDER will provide to Washington County and any applicable court the names of each associate attorney engaged by DEFENDER to provide services under this agreement.

2.7 Upon assignment by the Lead Public Defender and with approval of the applicable court, DEFENDER agrees to accept representation of any indigent case arising as a result of a conflict of interest with any

other public defender under contract with the COUNTY, including if necessary representation in the appellate courts, district court, justice court, or juvenile court.

2.8 Upon appointment by an applicable court, DEFENDER agrees to represent indigent persons who are being held in custody in Washington County and who are seeking an extraordinary writ under the Rules of Civil Procedure in the nature of a Writ of Habeas Corpus.

2.9 Upon appointment by an applicable court, DEFENDER shall provide legal assistance in representation of those persons subject to involuntary commitment proceedings in Washington County pursuant to Utah law.

2.10 DEFENDER agrees not to act on a case as a public defender until an applicable court has made an order of appointment and a determination of indigency.

2.11 Except for those cases with which there is a conflict of interest, DEFENDER agrees to assume all pending public defender cases previously assigned to a predecessor public defender and to immediately file appropriate notices of entry of appearance in those cases.

2.12 Upon the termination of this agreement, DEFENDER agrees to cooperate in the transfer of all cases to an incoming public defender and to continue representation, at no additional cost to the COUNTY, of all pending cases until such time that the cases can practically be transferred to an incoming public defender.

### SECTION 3: QUALIFICATIONS

3.1 By signing below, DEFENDER certifies that DEFENDER and any associates engaged to provide services under this agreement are members in good standing with the Utah Bar and are competent in the practice of criminal law. DEFENDER further certifies that DEFENDER and any associates will maintain good standing with the Utah Bar at all times during the period of this agreement.

3.2 DEFENDER will maintain a bona fide office at which to conduct business in Washington County, Utah and will notify clients served under this agreement of the location and telephone number of the office.

3.3 DEFENDER certifies that DEFENDER and any associate attorneys engaged to provide services under this agreement are citizens of the United States or permanent resident aliens

3.4 DEFENDER agrees that DEFENDER and any associate providing services pursuant to this agreement will abide by all federal, state and local laws, and acknowledges that any violation (except for minor traffic offenses) constitutes cause to terminate this agreement.

3.5 DEFENDER and any associate providing services pursuant to this agreement will abide by the Canons of Ethics, including the Utah Supreme Court Rules of Professional Practice, the Rules of Professional Conduct and the Rules of Lawyer Discipline and Disability. DEFENDER and any associates will follow the Rules of Civility adopted by the Utah Supreme Court.

3.6 DEFENDER and any associates providing services pursuant to this agreement will endeavor to keep abreast of all current legal trends and to maintain sufficient continuing professional education credits. In complying with the Rules of Professional Conduct's continuing legal education requirements, the DEFENDER and any associates will obtain continuing legal education relevant to the practice of criminal defense. To that end, the County shall subsidize DEFENDER's continuing legal education costs as provided in this agreement.

3.7 DEFENDER agrees that neither DEFENDER nor any associate providing services pursuant to this agreement is currently, nor shall be, party to any litigation which will place DEFENDER's or any associate's licensing or standing with the Utah Bar in jeopardy.

3.8 DEFENDER agrees to file a Certificate of Insurance with the Washington County Clerk, showing that a valid worker's compensation policy exists and provides coverage for DEFENDER and any employees or subcontractors of DEFENDER.

#### SECTION 4: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

4.1 DEFENDER agrees to provide services herein with respect to each indigent person entitled thereto except in those cases as defined wherein a legal conflict of interest exists such as would prevent DEFENDER from providing undivided loyalty to the client. DEFENDER further agrees to use DEFENDER's best efforts to avoid any conflicts of interest which would divide loyalty of defense counsel to client. The parties recognize, however, that conflicts may arise of sufficient magnitude that DEFENDER cannot properly represent the indigent defendant. A conflict of interest, such as would allow the DEFENDER to withdraw pursuant to this agreement, must be of such a nature as to be proscribed by case law, State statute, Rules of Criminal Procedure, or the Utah Rules of Professional Responsibility. DEFENDER shall disclose to the client any possible conflicts of interest at the earliest possible moment and in sufficient detail to allow the client to appreciate the significance of the conflict. DEFENDER agrees that a conflict of interest does not include withdrawals occasioned by defendant's request for counsel of choice or disagreements with or personal dislike of DEFENDER.

4.2 DEFENDER shall not represent more than one defendant in the same criminal case unless there is full disclosure to the client, the client has an opportunity to consult with outside counsel, and a written waiver is executed by the client.

4.3 DEFENDER shall not use information against the indigent client that was obtained during a prior representation of the client.

4.4 In the event DEFENDER is disqualified from representing an indigent defendant as a result of DEFENDER's private representation of an individual, for any reason involving a known or knowable pre-existing conflict of interest, the misconduct of the Attorney, or the filing of litigation in which DEFENDER is a party by any or all of the courts in which services are provided under this agreement or by the Utah State Bar, the DEFENDER shall be responsible for costs incurred by the COUNTY in providing substitute counsel. Otherwise, the County will provide replacement counsel.

#### SECTION 5: ASSIGNMENT

5.1 DEFENDER may not assign or transfer DEFENDER's interest in this agreement without the prior written consent of the COUNTY.

#### SECTION 6: INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

6.1 DEFENDER is an independent contractor and neither DEFENDER nor any agent, employee, or servant of DEFENDER shall be deemed an agent, employee or servant of the COUNTY. This AGREEMENT is for professional services and DEFENDER is not an employee of COUNTY and is not entitled to the benefits provided

by the COUNTY to its employees. The DEFENDER solely controls the method and manner of delivering the services required by this agreement.

SECTION 7: TERMINATION

This agreement may be terminated upon any of the following events:

7.1 *Termination for Cause.* This agreement may be terminated for cause by either party upon providing seven (7) calendar days written notice. The parties agree that failure to comply with any term of this agreement constitutes cause and is grounds to terminate the agreement. The parties agree that a previous failure to enforce any provision of this agreement does not constitute a waiver of the right to subsequently enforce that provision or any other provision.

7.2 *Voluntary Termination without Cause.* Either party may terminate this agreement without cause by giving the other party ninety (90) calendar days written notice. If notice is so given, this agreement shall terminate upon the expiration of the 90 calendar days and the liability of the parties hereunder for the further performance of the terms of this agreement shall thereupon cease.

7.3 *Misconduct.* In the event disciplinary action is taken by the Utah State Bar against DEFENDER, this contract may be immediately terminated without notice.

7.4 *Indigent Defense Committee Recommendation.* In the event the Washington County Indigent Defense Committee, after giving DEFENDER an opportunity to respond to concerns raised, recommends the termination of this contract, the contract may be immediately terminated.

7.5 *Transition.* In the event of termination, DEFENDER agrees to cooperate with DEFENDER's successors including the filing of all necessary pleadings for withdrawal and to deliver all applicable files, information, and materials to the successor.

SECTION 8: NOTICE.

8.1 Any notice required by this agreement shall be given in writing addressed to the following unless otherwise designated in writing.

FOR THE COUNTY:

Washington County Clerk  
197 East Tabernacle  
St. George, UT 84770

With a copy to:

Washington County Attorney  
33 North 100 West, Ste. 200  
St. George, UT 84770

FOR THE DEFENDER:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SECTION 9: DEFAULT

9.1 If either party defaults in the performance of the agreement or any of its covenants, terms, conditions, or provisions, the defaulting party shall pay all costs and expenses including a reasonable attorney's fee, which may arise or accrue from enforcing the agreement or from pursuing any remedy provided by law.

SECTION 10: GOVERNING LAW

10.1 This agreement is governed by the laws of the State of Utah.

SECTION 11: DISCRIMINATION

11.1 DEFENDER assures that DEFENDER and DEFENDER's associates, agents, or subcontractors will comply with all applicable civil rights laws, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of this agreement, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under this agreement.

SECTION 12: PRIVATE PRACTICE

12.1 DEFENDER may represent private clients or accept additional public defender contracts with other government entities so long as such representation does not interfere with DEFENDER's obligations under this agreement or create a conflict of interest in the representation of indigent defendants.

SECTION 13: INDEMNIFICATION

13.1 DEFENDER agrees to hold COUNTY harmless from all damages, loss, or injury County may suffer or be held liable for as a result of the conduct of DEFENDER or as a result of this agreement.

SECTION 14: TERM OF AGREEMENT

14.1 The parties agree that the term of this agreement shall be twelve (12) months dating from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021, both dates inclusive.

14.2 DEFENDER agrees to continue to provide representation for all cases until completion should that case extend beyond this agreement's term. All amendments or extensions hereof shall reset the term of the extension period in the amount and conditions agreed upon herein, provided however, that upon failure of the parties to agree upon compensation or the terms of said agreement, this agreement shall expire and be of no further effect.

SECTION 15: DISPUTE RESOLUTION

15.1 Any disputes regarding this agreement shall first be submitted to non-binding mediation. If mediation is unsuccessful in resolving the dispute, the parties agree to submit the dispute to binding arbitration pursuant to the rules of the American Arbitration Association.

SECTION 16: ENTIRE AGREEMENT

16.1 The parties agree that this agreement constitutes their entire agreement and any changes or modifications must be agreed do in writing by both parties and approved by the County Legislative Body in a public meeting. This agreement replaces any prior unexpired agreement(s) between the parties.

**DEFENDER**

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME  
Attorney at Law

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
VICTOR IVERSON, CHAIR  
WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
WASHINGTON COUNTY CLERK