

1 | **Appendix F. Utah State Court Records Retention Schedule**

2 | **(A) Definitions.**

3 | (A)(1) **Appellate proceedings.** As applicable to the particular case:

4 | (A)(1)(a) expiration of the time in which to file an appeal;

5 | (A)(1)(b) completion of the initial appeal of right;

6 | (A)(1)(c) completion of discretionary appeals; or

7 | (A)(1)(d) completion of trial court proceedings after remittitur.

8 | Appellate proceedings do not include collateral review, such as a petition for post  
9 | conviction relief or a petition for writ of habeas corpus, although these petitions may  
10 | themselves be the subject of appellate proceedings.

11 | (A)(2) **Case file.** The compilation of documents pertaining to a case in the district court  
12 | and justice court. The compilation of documents pertaining to an individual under the  
13 | jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

14 | (A)(3) **Case history.** Includes the docket, judgment docket, registry of judgments,  
15 | register of actions and other terms used to refer to a summary of the parties and events  
16 | of a case.

17 | (A)(4) **Clerk of the court.** Includes all deputy clerks.

18 | (A)(5) **Confidential records.** Records classified in accordance with the Title 63G,  
19 | Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management Act and Rule 4-202 et seq. of  
20 | the Judicial Council as private, protected, juvenile, or sealed.

21 | (A)(6) **Critical documents.** As applicable to the particular case:

22 | (A)(6)(a) **Civil.** Final amended complaint or petition; final amended answer or  
23 | response; final amended counterclaims, cross claims, and third party claims and  
24 | defenses; home study or custody evaluation; jury verdict; final written opinion of  
25 | the court, including any findings of fact and conclusions of law; final trial court  
26 | order, judgment or decree; interlocutory order only if reviewed by an appellate

27 court; orders supplemental to the judgment and writs that have not expired;  
28 notice of appeal; transcripts; appellate briefs; final order, judgment or decree or  
29 any appellate court; case history.

30 (A)(6)(b) **Child abuse, neglect or dependency.** In addition to that which is  
31 required of civil cases, shelter hearing order; adjudication orders; disposition  
32 orders; reports of the Division of Child and Family Services; psychological  
33 evaluations; reports from treatment providers; motion for permanency hearing;  
34 response to motion for permanency hearing; petition for termination of parental  
35 rights; and response to petition for termination of parental rights.

36 (A)(6)(c) **Divorce and domestic relations.** In addition to that which is required of  
37 civil cases, petitions to modify or enforce a final order, judgment or decree and  
38 the final order entered as a result of that petition.

39 (A)(6)(d) **Felonies, including offenses by a minor in juvenile court.** All  
40 documents other than duplicates, subpoenas, warrants, orders to show cause,  
41 presentence investigation reports and notices of hearings.

42 (A)(6)(e) **Misdemeanors and infractions, including offenses by a minor in  
43 juvenile court.** Final amended citation or information; jury verdict; final written  
44 opinion of the court, including any findings of fact and conclusions of law; final  
45 trial court order, judgment or decree; notice of appeal; appellate briefs; final  
46 order, judgment or decree or any appellate court; case history.

47 (A)(6)(f) **Probate.** In addition to that which is required of civil cases, will admitted  
48 to probate; trust instrument; final accounting; reports, findings and orders  
49 regarding the mental competence of a person.

50 (A)(7) **Document.** Any pleading or other paper filed with or created by the court for a  
51 particular case, regardless of medium.

52 (A)(8) **Off-site storage.** Storage at the State Records Center under the control of the  
53 Division of State Archives.

54 (A)(9) **On-site storage.** Storage at the courthouse or any secure storage facility under  
55 the control of the court.

56 (A)(10) **Retention period.** The time that a record must be kept. The retention period is  
57 either permanent or for a designated term of months or years.

58 **(B) Case Records.**

59 (B)(1) **Objectives.** The objective of the records retention schedule is to maintain  
60 convenient access to the documents of the case and to the case history as necessary to  
61 the activity in the case. Even in a case in which judgment has been entered there may  
62 be substantial activity. In criminal cases, the court can expect affidavits alleging  
63 violations of probation and petitions for post conviction relief. In civil cases, the court can  
64 expect to issue writs, orders supplemental to the judgment and to conduct other  
65 proceedings to collect the judgment. In divorce cases, the court can expect petitions to  
66 modify the decree or to enforce visitation and support. This may mean more immediate  
67 access in particular cases. The objective of the records retention schedule is to guide  
68 the transfer of permanent records to off-site storage and the destruction on non-  
69 permanent records.

70 (B)(2) **Storage medium.** The decisions of what storage medium to use and when to use  
71 it are left to local discretion, needs and resources of the clerk of the court.

72 With proper training or by the Division of State Archives the clerk of the court may  
73 microfilm records. Given the sensitive nature of identifying information contained in court  
74 records, such as name, address, telephone number, and social security number of  
75 parties, witnesses and jurors, microfilming of court records by Utah Correctional  
76 Industries is prohibited. All microfilming shall be in accordance with the standards  
77 adopted by the Division. All microfilm developing and quality assurance checks shall be  
78 done by the Division. The Division of State Archives shall keep the original film and  
79 return a copy to the court.

80 The clerk of the court may scan documents to a digital image based on local needs and  
81 resources. Once scanned to a digital image, the document may be destroyed. Electronic  
82 documents may be printed and maintained in the case file.

83 (B)(3) **Storage location.** The Administrative Office of the Courts shall maintain all  
84 computer records. The clerk of the court shall store on site pending cases, closed cases

85 with significant post judgment activity, and cases with a retention period of less than  
86 permanent.

87 The clerk of the court shall not store case files with significant activity off-site. Records in  
88 which there is an order of alimony or child support, visitation or custody shall not be  
89 stored off-site until at least three years has expired from the date of the last activity in the  
90 case. Within these parameters, the decision to store permanent records on-site or off-  
91 site is left to local discretion, needs and resources. The state court records officer and  
92 the Division of State Archives may evaluate exceptions for courthouses with critically  
93 short storage problems. Records stored off-site shall be prepared in accordance with  
94 standards and instructions of the Division of State Archives. If a record stored off-site is  
95 needed at the courthouse, the record will be returned to the court for the duration of the  
96 need. The clerk of the court shall not return a record in which there is an order of  
97 alimony or child support, visitation or custody to off-site storage until at least three years  
98 after the last activity in the case.

99 (B)(4) **Critical documents.** At any time after the completion of appellate proceedings,  
100 the clerk of the court may remove from the case file and destroy all documents other  
101 than critical documents.

102 (B)(5) **The retention period in a criminal case begins as of the completion of the**  
103 **sentence.** The level of offense is determined by the offense of which the defendant is  
104 convicted or to which the offense is reduced under Utah Code Section 76-3-402. The  
105 retention period in a civil or small claims case begins as of the expiration or satisfaction  
106 of the judgment. The retention periods are for the following terms.

107 (B)(5)(a) **Permanent.** All case types not governed by a more specific designation;  
108 ~~the record of arraignment and conviction required by Rule 9-301;~~ prosecution as a  
109 serious youth offender.

110 (B)(5)(b) **10 years.** Third degree felonies; violations of Utah Code Section 41-6a-502  
111 or Section 41-6a-503, or of Section 41-6a-512 if the conviction is to a reduced  
112 charge as provided in that section; hospital liens; domestic violence misdemeanors  
113 within the scope of Utah Code Section 77-36-1.

114 (B)(5)(c) **5 years.** Administrative agency review; civil and small claims cases  
115 dismissed with prejudice; forcible entry and detainer; investigative subpoenas;  
116 ~~domestic violence misdemeanor within the scope of Utah Code Section 77-36-4;~~  
117 post conviction relief or habeas corpus other than capital offenses and life without  
118 parole; tax liens; temporary separation; worker's compensation; probable cause  
119 statements and search and arrest warrants not associated with a case.

120 (B)(5)(d) **3 years.** Violations of Utah Code Section 53-3-231; violations of Utah Code  
121 Section 76-5-303.

122 (B)(5)(e) **1 year.** Civil cases with a judgment of money only; extraditions;  
123 misdemeanors and infractions classified as "mandatory appearance" by the Uniform  
124 Fine and Bail Schedule; petitions to expunge an arrest record in which no charges  
125 have been filed.

126 (B)(5)(f) **6 months.** Civil and small claims cases dismissed without prejudice;  
127 misdemeanors and infractions classified as "non-mandatory appearance" by the  
128 Uniform Fine and Bail Schedule; small claims cases with a judgment of money only.

129 (B)(6) **Retention period in Juvenile Court.** The retention period in a delinquency  
130 petition or referral begins as of the completion of the sentence. The retention period in  
131 other cases begins as of the expiration of the judgment. The retention periods are for the  
132 following terms.

133 (B)(6)(a) **Permanent.** Adoptions; civil cohabitant abuse; orders terminating parental  
134 rights; prosecution as serious youth offender; substantiation.

135 (B)(6)(b) **Until the youngest subject of the petition reaches age 28.** Abuse,  
136 neglect and dependency; felonies.

137 (B)(6)(c) **Until the subject of the petition reaches age 18 and jurisdiction of the**  
138 **court is terminated.** Misdemeanors and infractions other than non-judicial  
139 adjustments; interstate compact.

140 (B)(6)(d) **10 years.** Violations of Utah Code Section 41-6a-502 or Section 41-6a-503,  
141 or of Section 41-6a-512 if the conviction is to a reduced charge as provided in that  
142 section.

143 (B)(6)(e) **3 years.** Violations of Utah Code Section 53-3-231.

144 (B)(6)(f) **1 year.** Petitions to expunge an arrest record in which no charges have  
145 been filed.

146 (B)(6)(g) **6 months.** Non-judicial adjustment of referrals; misdemeanors and  
147 infractions classified as “non-mandatory appearance” by the Uniform Fine and Bail  
148 Schedule, such as fish and game violations; cases dismissed without prejudice.

149 (B)(7) **Retention period in Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.** The retention  
150 period for records in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals is permanent.

151 (B)(8) **Special cases.**

152 (B)(8)(a) The retention period for foreign judgments, abstracts of judgment and  
153 transcripts of judgment is the same as for a case of the same type filed originally in  
154 Utah.

155 (B)(8)(b) The retention period for contempt of court is the same as for the underlying  
156 case in which the contempt occurred.

157 (B)(8)(c) The retention period in the juvenile court for records of the prosecution of  
158 adults is the same as for the corresponding offense in district or justice court.

159 (B)(9) **Case related records.** If the record is filed with the case file, it is treated as a  
160 non-critical document unless it is specifically included within the definition of a critical  
161 document. If the record is not filed with the case file then its retention period is  
162 determined in accordance with the following schedule:

163 (B)(9)(a) **Audio and video tapes and tape logs; court reporter notes.** For  
164 misdemeanors, infractions and small claims, 3 years from the date the record is  
165 created. Otherwise, 9 years from the date the record is created. Tapes shall not be  
166 reused.

167 (B)(9)(b) **Court calendars.** As determined by the clerk of the court based on local  
168 needs.

169 (B)(9)(c) **Confidential records.** Confidential records are retained for the same  
170 period as the case to which they apply, but they are filed and stored in such a  
171 manner as to protect their confidentiality.

172 (B)(9)(d) **Depositions.** 6 months after the close of appellate proceedings.

173 (B)(9)(e) **Exhibits.** Three months after disposition of the exhibit in accordance with  
174 Code of Judicial Administration 4-206.

175 (B)(9)(f) **Expunged records.** For the same time as though the record had not been  
176 expunged.

177 (B)(9)(g) **Indexes.** Permanent.

178 (B)(9)(h) **Jury lists and juror qualification questionnaires.** 4 years from  
179 completion of term of availability.

180 (B)(9)(i) **Case history.** Permanent.

181 (B)(10) **Record destruction.** Court records 50 years of age or older shall be reviewed  
182 for historical significance by the Division of State Archives prior to destruction. If a record  
183 is of historical significance, the Division will take possession. If a record is not of  
184 historical significance, the court shall manage the record in accordance with this  
185 schedule.

186 Paper documents shall be destroyed after expiration of the retention period or after  
187 copying the document to microfilm, digital image, or electronic medium. If documents are  
188 copied to microfilm, digital image, or electronic medium, the court may maintain the  
189 paper documents until such later time that convenient access to the case file can be  
190 achieved by means of microfilm or digital image. Each court is responsible for destroying  
191 records or making arrangements for destroying records. The court must comply with all  
192 laws applicable to the method of destruction. Confidential records must be shredded  
193 prior to destruction. Recycling is the preferred method of destruction. In addition, the  
194 court may destroy records by incineration or deposit in a landfill. If the court is unable to  
195 destroy records by these means, the court may arrange through the state court records  
196 officer to have records destroyed by the State Records Center, which may charge a fee.

197       **(C) Administrative Records.**

198           (C)(1) **Record storage, microfilming, imaging and destruction.** Administrative  
199           records shall be stored on-site. Administrative records may be microfilmed or scanned to  
200           a digital image based on local needs and resources.

201           (C)(2) **Retention period.** The retention period for administrative records is in  
202           accordance with the following schedule.

203                   (C)(2)(a) **Accounting, audit, budget, and finance records.** 4 years from the  
204                   date the record is created.

205                   (C)(2)(b) **Final reports approved by the Judicial Council.** Permanent.

206                   (C)(2)(c) **General counsel legal files.** 10 years from date the record is created.

207                   (C)(2)(d) **Juror fee and witness fee payment records.** 4 years from date of  
208                   payment.

209                   (C)(2)(e) **Meeting minutes.** Permanent.

210           (C)(3) **Other Record Retention.** All administrative records not specifically listed in this  
211           record retention schedule will be retained, transferred or destroyed according to the  
212           appropriate court policy and procedure manual or the “Utah State Agency General  
213           Retention Schedule.”

214       **(D) Email retention.**

215           (D)(1) **Incidental Personal Correspondence.** Correspondence that does not relate to the  
216           business of the courts. The sender and recipient should delete the email as soon as s/he  
217           has no more need for it.

218           (D)(2) **Transitory Correspondence.** Court-related correspondence that is transitory in  
219           nature and does not offer unique information about court functions or programs. These  
220           records include acknowledgment files and most day-to-day office and housekeeping  
221           correspondence. The sender and recipient should delete the email as soon as s/he has no  
222           more need for it.



223 (D)(3) **Policy and Program Correspondence.** Court-related correspondence that provides  
224 unique information about court functions, policies, procedures, or programs. These records  
225 document material discussions and decisions made regarding all court interests. The  
226 recipient should delete the email as soon as s/he has no more need for it. The sender must  
227 retain policy and program email for the same duration as the Utah State Archives Record  
228 Retention Schedule for a record of that type.

229 (D)(4) **The sender must retain policy and program correspondence in a reproducible**  
230 **medium separate from transitory messages.** The sender can do this by moving the email  
231 message to an electronic folder in the email system with an appropriate retention period or  
232 by copying the correspondence to another medium for retention, such as a web page, a  
233 saved file, or a printed document. If the sender copies the email to another medium for  
234 retention, s/he should delete the email.

235 (D)(5) **Email records of a terminated or transferred employee.**

236 (D)(5)(a) **Supervisor's or designee's responsibility.** If an employee is scheduled for  
237 termination or transfer, the employee's supervisor or designee will notify the Help Desk  
238 of the IT Division using the form provided by the Division. Upon termination or transfer,  
239 the supervisor or designee will review the employee's email. The supervisor or designee  
240 will retain policy and program correspondence of which the employee was the sender in  
241 accordance with paragraph (D)(3).

242 (D)(5)(b) **IT Division's responsibility.** If the employee is transferred, the IT Division will  
243 maintain the employee's email account at the new location. If the employee is  
244 terminated, the IT Division will:

245 |        ~~1)~~(D)(5)(b)(i) De-provision the user id and email account of the employee;

246 |        ~~2)~~(D)(5)(b)(ii) Remove authority to sign on to the court's computing network;

247 |        ~~3)~~(D)(5)(b)(iii) Remove authority to access the court's email account;

248 |        ~~4)~~(D)(5)(b)(iv) Remove the employee from group email lists; and

249 |        ~~5)~~(D)(5)(b)(v) Remove authority to access personal and network drives.

250           Upon receipt of notice of termination or transfer, the IT Division will retain the employee's  
251           email in its original form for 180 days from the date of termination or transfer. After 180  
252           days, the IT Division may back up the employee's email, delete the email account and  
253           recover and reuse the disk space. The IT Division will retain the back-up off site for one  
254           year from the date of deletion. If a terminated or transferred employee returns within 180  
255           days after the date of termination, the IT Division will reactivate the employee's email  
256           account.

257           (D)(6) **Litigation.** Upon notice of pending or potential litigation, the IT Division will retain the  
258           employee's email in the current format until notice that the litigation is complete or is no  
259           longer contemplated. At such time, the employee's email will be subject to this section (D).

260           *Effective: May/November 1, 20\_\_*