

Case and Filing Types in Utah District Courts

Updated: June 2016

GENERAL CIVIL CASES	
Administrative Agency	An appeal of a decision(s) made by state administrative agencies. <i>(Utah Code 41-6a-521(6) et al.)</i>
Arbitration Award	The terms of an award resulting from arbitration. <i>(Utah Rules of Court-Annexed Alternative Dispute Resolution Rule 102)</i>
Civil Rights	A civil action alleging deprivation of rights.
Civil Stalking	A case filed to request an injunction to restrain the respondent from contact with the petitioner. <i>(Utah Code 77-3a-101)</i>
Condemnation	A case filed through which a governmental body exercises its right of "eminent domain" to acquire private property for public uses. <i>(Utah Code 57-12-13)</i>
Contempt	A case filed on the court's own motion. May involve a juror or witness who refuses to testify or obey a subpoena or an attorney who fails to appear at a court hearing.
Contracts	A case alleging a dispute over an agreement (express or implied) between two or more parties. Use when the action does not apply to another contract case type.
Contract: Employment Discrimination	A case alleging the defendant/employer denied hiring, salary increases, or other forms of advancement based on the plaintiff/employee's race, gender, national origin, or sexual orientation. Also see case type Wrongful Termination.
Contract: Fraud	A case alleging the intentional misrepresentation of fact for the purpose of financial or legal gain.
Debt Collection	A case in which the plaintiff/seller brings suit against a buyer of goods or services for failure to pay as promised in an expressed or implied contract.
Eviction	A case filed to remove a tenant from a rental property and recoup costs, or to gain occupancy of a property after being sold post-foreclosure. Also known as unlawful detainer. <i>(Utah Code 78B-6-801 to 811)</i>
Forfeiture of Property	A case filed to deprive a person of property due to breaking a law. Typically filed on behalf of the state by a law enforcement agency. <i>(Utah Code 24-1-4)</i>
Interpleader	A case brought by a third party to have a court determine ownership rights of claimants to money or property held by the third party.
Involuntary Commitment	A case in which the court is asked to compel an individual to receive inpatient treatment for a mental health disorder against his/her will. <i>(Utah Code 62A-15-631)</i>
Lien/Mortgage Foreclosures	A case in which a trustee deposits surplus money remaining after payment of the amount due on a mortgage, lien or an action to foreclose on property. <i>(Utah Code 78B-6-904)</i>
Miscellaneous	1) Use to file a Transfer of Structured Settlement Payments case. 2) Use ONLY when the action in the complaint does not apply to another case type.
Notice of Out of State Deposition	A subpoena to an out-of-state witness to appear at a deposition.
Post-Conviction Relief Capital	An action in the district court of original jurisdiction to vacate or modify a conviction or sentence in a capital criminal case.
Post-Conviction Relief Non Capital	An action in the district court of original jurisdiction to vacate or modify a conviction or sentence in a non-capital criminal case.
Property Rights	A case involving disputes over the ownership, use, boundaries, or value of real property.
Small Claims	A case filed to collect monies owed not exceeding \$10,000. <i>(Utah Code 78A-8-101 to 109)</i>

Small Claims Gov	A case filed by a government agency to collect monies owed not exceeding \$10,000. (Utah Code 78A-8-101 to 109)
Tax Protest	An action filed against the taxing entity to recover any tax paid under protest. (Utah Code 59-2-1327)
Water Rights	A case initiated to resolve competing claims to water use. (Utah Code 73-4-1)
Writs	A written order commanding a party to perform or cease performing a specified act.
Wrongful Lien	A civil case alleging a person filed an intentional, improper lien against another. (Utah Code 38-9a-202)
Wrongful Termination	A civil case in which a former employee seeks damages from an employer for termination of employment. Also see case type Contract: Employment Discrimination.

TORT CASES	
Automobile Tort	A case involving personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death resulting from alleged negligent operation of a motor vehicle.
Intentional Tort	A case involving injury to property or person alleged to be willfully brought upon one party by another.
Malpractice-Medical Tort	A case alleging misconduct or negligence by a person in the medical profession acting in a professional capacity, such as doctors, nurses, physician's assistants, dentists, etc.
Malpractice-Legal Tort; Other	A case alleging misconduct or negligence by a non-medical professional.
Premises Liability	A case involving claims brought against the owner of real property, alleging the condition of the property to be the cause of personal injury.
Asbestos	A case alleging that injury is caused by the manufacturer or seller of ASBESTOS due to a defect in, or the condition of, the article sold or an alleged breach of duty to provide suitable instructions to prevent injury. Salt Lake City District Ct only
Product Liability (NOT Asbestos)	A case alleging that injury is caused by the manufacturer or seller of an article due to a defect in, or the condition of, the article sold or an alleged breach of duty to provide suitable instructions to prevent injury.
Slander/Libel/Defamation	A case alleging harm to the reputation, community standing, or livelihood of the claimant caused by false or misleading statements made by the defendant.

JUDGMENT RELATED FILINGS	
Abstract of Judgment	A summary of a judgment which creates a public record in the county in which the abstract of judgment is recorded. (Utah Code 78B-5-202)
Foreign Judgment	A judgment, decree or order from another court filed for enforcement in Utah. (Utah Code 78B-5-302)
Hospital Lien	A lien filed by a hospital to recover the costs of emergency and other medical services.
Judgment by Confession	A judgment entered through a verified statement by the judgment debtor stating the claim and that the sum confessed is justly due or to become due. (Utah Code 78B-5-205)
Tax Lien	A lien filed by the Utah State Tax Commission for delinquent state taxes.

PROBATE CASES

Adoption	A case filed to petition the court to make an adult the legal parent of someone who is not his or her biological child.
Conservatorship	A case filed to request the appointment of a person to manage the property, daily affairs, and financial affairs of another person.
Estate Personal Rep	An application for appointment of a personal representative in a probate case. <i>(Utah Code 75-3-301 & 401)</i>
Gestational Agreement	A case filed to validate a gestational agreement. <i>(Utah Code 78B-15-902)</i>
Guardianship-Minor	A case filed to request the appointment of a person to provide care and management of a minor. <i>(Utah Code 75-5-201)</i>
Guardianship-Adult	A case filed to request the appointment of a person to provide care and management of a person who due to age or some incapacitation is incapable of their own care.
Guardianship of Disabled Child	A case filed by a parent of a disabled adult child to request their appointment as a person to provide care and management for that child. <i>(Utah Code 75-5-301)</i>
Minor's Settlement	A case in which a judgment is granted to a minor and is put in a trust account controlled by a guardian.
Name Change	A case in which the petitioner seeks a court order to change one's name.
Other Probate	Used only when the action in the petition does not apply to another probate case type.
Trust	A case related to administration of a trust.
Supervised Administration	An action in which the personal representative requests court approval before taking actions or making distributions from an estate without a court order.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES	
Adjudication of Marriage	A case filed to request the court to recognize a relationship as a legal marriage without benefit of a civil marriage. Typically filed prior to a divorce or probate matter.
Custody and Support	A domestic case filed to resolve custody and support issues.
Divorce/Annulment	A case filed to dissolve a marriage and address issues including child custody support visitation, property division and others as appropriate. <i>(Utah Code 30-3-1)</i>
Grandparent Visitation	A case filed to request the legal right to court-ordered visitation or access to grandchildren. <i>(Utah Code 30-5-2)</i>
Paternity	A domestic case in which the parentage, typically the paternity, of a child is established. <i>(Utah Code 78B-14-402)</i>
Protective Order	A case filed to request a civil order of protection. <i>(Utah Code 78B-7-103)</i>
Separate Maintenance	A case filed to request support for one married person by the other married person if they are no longer living as husband and wife. <i>(Utah Code 30-4-1)</i>
Temporary Separation	An action for a temporary separation order without filing a petition for divorce. Orders are valid for one year after the date of the hearing unless a petition for divorce is filed or the case is dismissed. <i>(Utah Code 30-3-4.50)</i>
UCCJA Child Custody Jurisdiction	A case in which jurisdiction is determined on a child custody order when parents are in different jurisdictions. Typically filed for enforcement purposes. (Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act) <i>(Utah Code 78B-13-101)</i>
UIFSA	Registration of a child support or alimony court order from another state for enforcement purposes. (Uniform Interstate Family Support Act) <i>(Utah Code 78B-14-101)</i>

APPEALS	
Small Claims Trial De Novo	An appeal of a small claims judgment ordered in a justice court.
Tax Court	An appeal of a Utah State Tax Commission decision.

CRIMINAL CASES AND ACTIONS	
State Felony	A crime punishable by a fine and/or confinement in the Utah State Prison system. <i>(Utah Code 76-3-103)</i>
Misdemeanor DUI	A violation of Utah driving under the influence statutes punishable by a fine and/or confinement in a local jail, but not by imprisonment in the Utah State prison system. <i>(Utah Code 76-3-104)</i>
Other Misdemeanor	A crime punishable by a fine and/or confinement in a local jail, but not by imprisonment in the Utah State prison system. (Excludes misdemeanor violations of DUI statutes.) <i>(Utah Code 76-3-104)</i>
Infraction	A violation of a statute, local ordinance or regulation punishable by a fine, but not of confinement or imprisonment. <i>(Utah Code 76-3-105)</i>
No Applicable Severity	<p>Criminal administrative actions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative Checkpoint filings <i>(Utah Code 77-23-104)</i>; • Bond to Restrain Violation/Warrant of Commitment <i>(Utah Code 77-3-8)</i>; • Criminal Investigation, requesting approval to conduct a criminal investigation for the purpose of identifying a criminal activity. <i>(Utah Code 77-22-2)</i>; • Demand for Forfeiture of Property <i>(Utah Code 24-4-105)</i> • Expungement only when no case exists at the court or an arrest only case <i>(Utah Code 77-40-103)</i> • Extradition for Crime Committed in Another State While in Utah <i>(Utah Code 77-30-6)</i> • Fugitive from Justice - Warrant of Arrest <i>(Utah Code 77-30-13)</i> • Hearing de Novo <i>(Utah Code 78A-7-118)</i> • Jail Release Court Order <i>(Utah Code 77-36-2.6)</i> • Material Witness Warrant <i>(Utah Code 77-21-1)</i> • Pen Register or Trap and Trace Device Request <i>(Utah Code 77-23A-15)</i>

TRAFFIC AND PARKING CASES	
Parking Citation	A case in which a parking citation is resolved.
Parking Court Case	A case in which a parking citation is contested and resolved.
Traffic Citation	A violation related to the operation of a motor vehicle, usually punishable by fine.
Traffic Court Case	A case generated out of a citation related to the operation of a motor vehicle or in which the defendant contests the citation and a hearing is set, or the defendant fails to appear and a warrant is issued.