



### Tooele County Council Agenda Item Summary

**Department Making Request:**

Attorney / Public Defender

**Meeting Date:**

July 19, 2022

**Mark Options That Apply:**

**Grant**  
*1 time*

**Contract**  
*1 yr. or less*

**Purchase**

Exp date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grant**  
*With County Match*

**Contract**  
*More than 1 yr.*

Exp date: None

**Budget Impact:**

**In Budget**

**Over Budget**

**Requested Amount:** \$ 26,418

**Item Title:** Legal Defender Agreement, Juvenile Court - Parental Defense, Michelle Robison

*Please answer the who? what? when? why?*

This is a new contract for a part-time Juvenile Court Parental Defense public defender. The Indigent Defense Commission awarded additional funding for this contract for this new grant year which began July 1. The County will be fully reimbursed by the IDC. These services are required by the State for indigent defendants.

A budget increase request has been submitted and is on the July 19, 2022 agendas.

**List who needs copies when approved:** Rebecca Poulsen, County Attorney's Office

**TOOELE COUNTY  
LEGAL DEFENDER AGREEMENT  
JUVENILE COURT – PARENTAL DEFENSE**

**THIS AGREEMENT** is entered into this 19<sup>th</sup> day of July 2022, by and between **TOOELE COUNTY**, a political subdivision of the State of Utah, 47 South Main, Tooele, Utah 84074 (hereinafter referred to as “County”), and **MICHELLE ROBISON** of **MBR LAW OFFICE, PLLC**, 2156 East 6525 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84121 (hereinafter referred to as “Legal Defender”).

**WHEREAS**, County recognizes its obligation as a political subdivision of the State of Utah to provide legal counsel for certain indigent persons who are subject to the jurisdiction of the various courts located in Tooele County; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the public interest to memorialize an agreement between County and Legal Defender to provide legal counsel to certain indigent persons;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, County and Legal Defender hereby agree as follows:

1. IDENTITY OF LEGAL DEFENDER. Legal Defender is an attorney at law, duly licensed by the Utah State Bar to practice before the state and federal courts of the State of Utah. Legal Defender hereby accepts the legal defender position as an independent contractor and not as an employee of County. Legal Defender may not associate herself with other attorneys for the purpose of providing services under this agreement.

2. DUTIES. In parental defense cases, Legal Defender agrees to represent one-sixth (1/6) of all persons who are found to be indigent by any magistrate of the juvenile court having jurisdiction in Tooele County and who are entitled to appointed legal counsel by County pursuant to the constitution and laws of Utah and the Constitution of the United States and as required by Title 77, Chapter 32, Part 3 of Utah Code Annotated 1953, as amended. Legal Defender agrees to provide competent legal services in accordance with law and the Code of Professional Ethics.

The remaining five-sixths (5/6) of the legal defender cases will be handled by other attorneys/firms. The Court will apportion cases as equally as possible among all the contracting legal defenders. Appeals from legal defender cases shall be handled by separate contract.

3. DISCOVERY. Discovery on all legal defender cases will be provided electronically, via email, at no charge. Legal Defender shall have an email account in place that will allow for delivery of large files that are common when dealing with discovery.

4. COMPENSATION. In consideration of such representation, County shall pay Legal Defender the monthly sum of two thousand two hundred one dollars and fifty cents (\$2,201.50).

5. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST. The parties hereto recognize that occasions may arise when a legal defender may be disqualified from representing a particular person because of a conflict of interest perceived by the person, legal defender, or the court. In such instances where it has been determined that Legal Defender has a legal conflict of interest, the other legal defender attorneys/firms under contract shall undertake the representation of such person. For delinquency cases, Legal Defender agrees to represent one-sixth (1/6) of all persons who are found to be indigent by any magistrate of the juvenile court if the primary delinquency legal defender is unable to represent the person. In instances where all legal defenders under contract with County have been determined by the court to have a conflict of interest with such persons, County shall employ other counsel at such rates and terms as it shall negotiate with counsel.

6. VACANCIES. The parties hereto recognize that vacancies may arise with respect to other Tooele County legal defender contracts. Upon request, Legal Defender agrees to serve as counsel when there is a vacancy on a Tooele County Legal Defender Contract. Legal Defender



shall serve as counsel until such time as the vacant contract is filled and shall be compensated for said additional work in an amount equal to what would have been paid for the legal defender contract which has been vacated.

7. COSTS. County agrees to pay all indigent transcript costs and any other court costs required by law for any person represented under this agreement.

8. RECOUPMENT OF FEES. Should any court order a person to pay for some or all of the attorney's fees of Legal Defender acting under this agreement, Legal Defender shall immediately pay such fees to County or have the person pay County directly. Legal Defender agrees that County shall bear the responsibility for collecting such fees.

9. COOPERATION WITH IDC REPORTING. Legal Defender shall cooperate with County by providing the necessary data and reports as required by the grant from the Indigent Defense Commission ("IDC") to Tooele County. In addition, Legal Defender shall cooperate and participate with the IDC and County's Managing Legal Defender in reporting required information in a timely manner and with any investigations, audits, and/or reviews of indigent defense services. If Legal Defender fails to comply with this provision, County may elect to withhold payment until the failure to cooperate or participate is cured, or it may terminate this agreement.

10. FILES. Upon termination of this agreement, Legal Defender agrees to turn over all active files to her successor.

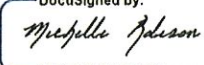
11. EFFECTIVE DATE – TERM. This agreement shall take effect upon July 1, 2022 and shall continue until terminated in writing by any party hereto upon thirty (30) days written notice. Amendments to this agreement shall be made only with the same formality as provided by this agreement.

12. NON-ASSIGNABILITY. This agreement is in the nature of a contract for personal services and is not assignable by any party without the prior written consent of the other parties hereto.

13. NON-DISCRIMINATION. Legal Defender shall not discriminate against any person they represent pursuant to this agreement on the basis of race, creed, sex, religion, national origin, or age.

14. TERMINATION OF PREVIOUS CONTRACTS. All previous legal defender contracts between the parties are terminated as of the effective date of this agreement.


**LEGAL DEFENDER**

DocuSigned by:  
  
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MICHELLE ROBISON  
MBR Law Office, PLLC

**TOOELE COUNTY**

  
JAMES A. WELCH, County Manager

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
SCOTT BROADHEAD, County Attorney