

An Overview of Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils

What are they?

A council made up of the following:

- one county commissioner or county council member;
- the county sheriff or the sheriff's designee;
- one chief of police of a municipality within the county or the chief's designee;
- the county attorney or the attorney's designee;
- one public defender or attorney who provides public defense within the county;
- one district court judge;
- one justice court judge;
- one representative from the Division of Adult Probation and Parole within the Department of Corrections;
- one representative from the local mental health authority within the county; and
- one individual who is a crime victim or a victim advocate.

May include one additional member from a local government or criminal-justice involved agency; refer to statute.

What is the purpose?

To develop a strategic plan for the county's/counties' criminal justice system that includes:

- mapping of all systems, resources, assets, and services within that county's/counties' criminal justice system;
- a plan for data sharing across the county's/counties' criminal justice system;
- recidivism reductive objections; and
- community reintegration goals.

The bill creating these councils (2022 SB 179) was a direct result of the JRI listening tour to increase information flow and allow for better coordination among agencies involved in the criminal justice system.

What is the timeline to create these councils?

- Counties must create criminal justice councils beginning January 1, 2023.
- These councils must be created by July 1, 2023, to avoid penalties.
- Penalties include the restriction of grant money from the CCJJ to a criminal justice coordinating council.

What are the reporting requirements?

- Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils must provide a written report to CCJJ regarding the implementation of the strategic plan and any data on the impact of the council on the criminal justice system in the county/counties.
- This report is due before November 30 of each year.

What are the meeting requirements?

- None are included in the bill. You may meet virtually or in-person as often as you would like as long as the strategic plan is complete.

To view the statute, please refer to Utah Code 17-55.