

1                                   **CHILDREN'S JUSTICE CENTERS AMENDMENTS**

2   2015 GENERAL SESSION

3   STATE OF UTAH

4                                   **Chief Sponsor: Ralph Okerlund**

5                                   House Sponsor: Michael E. Noel

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7 **LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9           This bill amends provisions related to Children's Justice Centers.

10 **Highlighted Provisions:**

11           This bill:

12           ▶ amends the counties in which the attorney general shall establish Children's Justice  
13 Centers.

14 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

15           None

16 **Other Special Clauses:**

17           None

18 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

19 AMENDS:

20           **67-5b-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 129

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22 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

23           Section 1. Section **67-5b-102** is amended to read:

24           **67-5b-102. Children's Justice Center -- Requirements of center -- Purposes of**  
25 **center.**

26           (1) (a) There is established a program that provides a comprehensive,  
27 multidisciplinary, nonprofit, intergovernmental response to sexual abuse of children, physical  
28 abuse of children, and other crimes involving children where the child is a primary victim or a  
29 critical witness, such as in drug-related child endangerment cases, in a facility known as a

30 Children's Justice Center.

31 (b) The attorney general shall administer the program.

32 (c) The attorney general shall:

33 (i) allocate the funds appropriated by a line item pursuant to Section [67-5b-103](#);

34 (ii) administer applications for state and federal grants;

35 (iii) staff the Advisory Board on Children's Justice;

36 (iv) assist in the development of new centers; and

37 (v) coordinate services between centers.

38 (2) (a) The attorney general shall establish Children's Justice Centers or satellite offices  
39 in Beaver County, Cache County, Carbon County, Davis County, Duchesne County, Emery  
40 County, Grand County, Iron County, Kane County, Salt Lake County, Sanpete County, Sevier  
41 County, Tooele County, Uintah County, Utah County, Wasatch County, Washington County,  
42 and Weber County.

43 (b) The attorney general may establish other centers within a county and in other  
44 counties of the state.

45 (3) The attorney general and each center shall fulfill the statewide purpose of each  
46 center by:

47 (a) minimizing the time and duplication of effort required to investigate, prosecute, and  
48 initiate treatment for the abused child in the state;

49 (b) facilitating the investigation of the alleged offense against the abused child;

50 (c) conducting interviews of abused children and their families in a professional  
51 manner;

52 (d) obtaining reliable and admissible information which can be used effectively in  
53 criminal and child protection proceedings in the state;

54 (e) coordinating and tracking:

55 (i) the use of limited medical and psychiatric services;

56 (ii) investigation of the alleged offense;

57 (iii) preparation of prosecution;

- 58 (iv) treatment of the abused child and family; and
  - 59 (v) education and training of persons who provide services to the abused child and its
  - 60 family in the state;
  - 61 (f) expediting the processing of the case through the courts in the state;
  - 62 (g) protecting the interest of the abused child and the community in the state;
  - 63 (h) reducing trauma to the abused child in the state;
  - 64 (i) enhancing the community understanding of sexual abuse of children, physical abuse
  - 65 of children, and other crimes in the state involving children where the child is a primary victim
  - 66 or a critical witness, such as in drug-related child endangerment cases;
  - 67 (j) providing as many services as possible that are required for the thorough and
  - 68 effective investigation of child abuse cases; and
  - 69 (k) enhancing the community understanding of criminal offenses committed against or
  - 70 in the presence of children.
- 71 (4) To assist a center in fulfilling the requirements and statewide purposes as provided
- 72 in Subsection (3), each center may obtain access to any relevant juvenile court legal records
- 73 and adult court legal records, unless sealed by the court.
- 74 (5) The statewide purpose of this chapter is to establish a program that provides a
- 75 comprehensive, multidisciplinary, nonprofit, intergovernmental response to sexual abuse of
- 76 children, physical abuse of children, and other crimes involving children where the child is a
- 77 primary victim or a critical witness, such as drug-related child endangerment cases, in a facility
- 78 known as a Children's Justice Center.