

**AMENDED AGREEMENT FOR INDIGENT DEFENSE ATTORNEY  
DISTRICT COURT**

This agreement is made effective the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2020, by and between Weber County, a body politic and political subdivision of the State of Utah (“County”) and Gage Crowther (“Attorney”). County and Attorney are sometimes referred to individually as “Party” and collectively as “Parties.”

**WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Indigent Defense Act, as set forth in Title 78B, Chapter 22 Utah Code Ann., County has the responsibility to provide legal counsel to every indigent person who faces the substantial probability of deprivation of his or her liberty; and

**WHEREAS**, Attorney is an active member of the Utah State Bar Association in good standing and admitted to practice law before the courts of the State of Utah; and

**WHEREAS**, Attorney has been representing indigent persons in the Second District Court on behalf of county in a single law and motion calendar since November 2019 and desires to take on an additional law and motion calendar pursuant to the terms of this agreement;

**WHEREAS**, this agreement amends and replaces Attorney’s November 2019 contract;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises contained hereafter, the Parties agree as follows:

**SECTION ONE  
SERVICES**

1. Attorney shall fulfill the following specific assignments:
  - a. **District Court:** Attorney agrees to provide competent legal counsel to any person who is charged with a felony or a misdemeanor, who is appointed Attorney as counsel by the Second District Court, and who is deemed by the court to be indigent (“Clients”). Attorney will represent Clients in all criminal matters before the court including scheduling conferences, hearings, trials, probation violation hearings, restitution hearings, and all other matters to ensure adequate representation.
  - b. **Drug Court:** Attorney agrees to represent participants that are accepted into the Drug Court program in the Second District Court. Attorney agrees to ensure participant’s constitutional rights are protected, to counsel participants regarding their voluntary participation, to explain the requirements and possible sanctions

for failing to meet the requirements of the program, and to represent them in any termination hearings. Attorney agrees to attend staffing meeting before court begins and offer input on ways to help defendants obtain needed treatment and meet other needs in order to avoid recidivism.

2. Attorney agrees to promptly notify the court of any changes with regard to the indigent status of any Clients which would affect the qualifying of the Clients for court-appointed counsel.
3. If Attorney is not Rule 8 qualified, Attorney shall make reasonable efforts to become Rule 8 qualified.
4. Attorney agrees to be supervised by an attorney who has been hired by County to act as the coordinating attorney ("Coordinating Attorney") and to accept assignments from said Coordinating Attorney to cover specific court calendars and other hearings as necessary.
5. Attorney agrees to provide the Coordinating Attorney with various caseload information on a monthly basis in a format approved by the Coordinating Attorney. Attorney will use Defender Data, or other software that may be required by the County, as a means of tracking and reporting various information about Attorney's assigned cases.
6. Attorney will seek to identify potential conflicts or complaints that persons may have against Attorney and work diligently to avoid any complaints being lodged against Attorney. Attorney will immediately communicate to the Coordinating Attorney any complaints that are lodged by anyone against Attorney and work diligently to resolve any such complaints.
7. Attorney will be responsible for scanning any paper files once they are closed and destroying the hard copy of the file. In the event that Attorney fails to scan closed paper files and destroy the hard copies, County may withhold the costs for doing so from Attorney's paycheck. Attorney agrees to cooperate with Coordinating Attorney in transferring the digital copies of closed files to the Coordinating Attorney.
8. Attorney will assist Coordinating Attorney in the development of a list of court-approved expert witnesses and make diligent efforts to utilize only those expert witnesses found on such list. If Attorney feels it necessary to utilize an expert witness who is not on the approved list, Attorney agrees to consult with the Coordinating Attorney before making any such request.
9. Upon request, Attorney shall submit to the Coordinating Attorney an electronic copy of any motion, memoranda, appellate brief, court report, or any other such report pertaining to Attorney's Clients under this Agreement.
10. County agrees that if Attorney is asked to represent an indigent defendant in a capital defense case where the County Attorney is seeking the death penalty, a separate contract

will be crafted to handle compensation.

11. Attorney agrees to make reasonable efforts to attend at least 80% of the periodic public defender training/coordination meetings and to attend performance evaluations as requested by the Coordinating Attorney.
12. Attorney agrees to use his/her best efforts to avoid any conflicts of interest, which would divide loyalty of Attorney to Clients. The Parties recognize that certain cases may arise where conflicts are of sufficient magnitude that the Attorney cannot represent a particular Client. Conflicts of interest shall only be deemed to exist after a determination of the appointing Court.
13. Unless the fee is waived by the court based upon the Client's financial condition, Attorney agrees to assist County in the continued implementation of a fee recovery program whereby Defendants receiving assistance of appointed counsel shall repay to County a portion of the expense thereof as a matter of restitution, based upon a schedule approved by the Weber County Commission.

## **SECTION TWO CONDUCT**

14. If at any time Attorney's caseload becomes sufficiently burdensome to create an ineffective assistance of counsel issue or could cause the attorney to be in violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, Attorney shall immediately notify the Coordinating Attorney and determine a proper course of action to remedy the situation. Resolution may include but not be limited too, reassigning a case or cases; assigning an additional attorney for complex cases; reducing or eliminating private practice matters, or other solutions.
15. Attorney agrees to abide by the rules of Professional Conduct of the American Bar Association, the Utah State Bar Association, and the laws of the State of Utah, including but not necessarily limited to the provisions of Chapter 32 of Title 77, Utah Code Ann. (1953, as amended).
16. Attorney agrees to keep abreast of all current legal trends in the area of criminal defense and to maintain sufficient continuing professional education credits during the period of this Agreement.
17. Throughout the term of this Agreement, Attorney agrees to maintain access to an office within Weber County where Attorney can meet with Clients. Attorney agrees to be reasonably available and accessible to all Clients, to make reasonable efforts to visit clients who are incarcerated, and to return telephone calls as soon as reasonably possible.

## **SECTION THREE**

## COVERAGE

18. Attorney is expected to provide coverage for other contract attorneys when necessary and when Attorney is available to provide coverage. When possible, the attorneys should attempt to trade coverage at the time coverage is procured. When a simultaneous trade is not possible, the attorney whose calendar was covered should make reasonable efforts to reciprocate coverage for the attorney who covered for him/her upon request.
19. If the Coordinating Attorney determines that the attorney who provided coverage made reasonable efforts to procure coverage from the attorney for whom he/she provided coverage and the other attorney was unwilling or unable to provide coverage within six months of the original coverage having been provided, the covering attorney shall be compensated \$250 by the attorney who was covered. The County may deduct this amount from the paycheck of the attorney whose calendar was covered and added to the paycheck of the covering attorney.
20. When Attorney will miss his/her regular court assignment due to trial, vacation, seminar, etc., Attorney shall arrange with another contract attorney to cover Attorney's court. If Attorney fails to procure coverage and does not appear at Attorney's court assignment, the sum of \$600 shall be deducted from Attorney's pay and paid to the attorney[s] who provided coverage for Attorney (if any is provided). The arrangement for court coverage shall be coordinated with the Coordinating Attorney.
21. Attorney shall represent indigent defendants that would typically be assigned to other contract attorneys when the court deems there is a conflict of interest preventing the other contract attorney from representing the indigent defendant. Any such representation shall be at no additional cost to County, with such assignments being made under the direction of the Coordinating Attorney.
22. Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit Attorney from representing private clients so long as the representation of private clients does not interfere with or create a conflict of interest in the representation of Clients appointed under this Agreement.

## SECTION FOUR COMPENSATION

23. County agrees to pay Attorney the following amounts annually:

Basis for Amount	Amount
Two District Court Calendars	\$64,934
Drug Court	\$11,375
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$76,309</b>

Payment shall be made to the Attorney in the amount of \$5,411.17 for the month of July 2020. Beginning August 1, 2020, when the drug court assignment starts, payment shall increase to \$6,359.08 per month and a like sum shall be paid on the last day of each month thereafter until this agreement expires or is terminated.

Attorney's compensation is based on the number of years Attorney has practiced. County agrees to increase the compensation paid under this Agreement each year. Increases shall be in an amount determined by County and shall be based on the amount of the increase that County employees receive for that same year.

#### **SECTION FIVE INSURANCE**

24. Attorney agrees to maintain professional malpractice insurance with limits of \$100,000 per person and an aggregate of \$300,000 and provide to County evidence of the insurance.
25. Attorney shall indemnify and save the County and its officers, agents, and employees harmless from and against all claims for damages or injuries resulting from any claimed malpractice, injury, death, damages, and any other causes of action arising directly or indirectly from the performance of this Agreement by the Attorney.

#### **SECTION SIX REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES**

26. County has established an indigent expense fund ("Expense Fund") which may be used by all attorneys representing indigent defendants in the County. The Expense Fund may only be used for those expenses that are *necessary to provide an effective defense*. Appropriate expenses include laboratory costs, fees to obtain transcripts, defense witness fees, and interpreter fees. Attorney will bear all other expenses in providing the services contemplated herein, including transportation, office costs, telephone, postage, copying, scanning, and secretarial costs.
27. Before Attorney may access any of the funds from the Expense Fund, Attorney shall first consult with the Coordinating Attorney. If the Coordinating Attorney agrees that the expense is necessary to provide an effective defense, Attorney shall notify the Civil Division of the County Attorney's Office ("Civil Division") of the intent to expend funds. If the Civil Division does not agree that the expense is necessary to provide an effective defense, Attorney shall make application for approval of the funds from the court in the form of a written motion and shall specify the reasons for the expense. A copy of the motion shall be provided to the Civil Division at the time said motion is submitted to the court.

28. Any expense incurred by Attorney that is not previously approved by the County or the court, or in excess of that approved by the County or the court, shall be the sole responsibility of the Attorney.
29. While ensuring that Attorney's Clients receive an effective and reasonable defense, Attorney hereby agrees to use his/her best efforts to minimize the cost and expenses to be deducted from the Expense Fund. In the event the total approved expenses exhaust the Expense Fund for the year, the Attorney shall apply in writing to the Weber County Clerk/Auditor for approval of additional funds.
30. For expenses that are approved in advance by the County or ordered by the court, Attorney shall submit the invoices or statements for expense reimbursements, together with supporting documentation, to the Civil Division.
31. The County has investigators under contract to provide investigative services for indigent defense attorneys. Any requests for investigative services shall be submitted to those contracting investigators unless otherwise approved in advance by the Coordinating Attorney and the County.

**SECTION SEVEN  
TERM AND TERMINATION**

32. The term of this Agreement shall be from July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2024.
33. Attorney or County may terminate this Agreement without cause upon 60-days written notice to the other Party.
34. This Agreement may be terminated at any time for cause. Cause shall include but not be limited to a suspension or revocation of Attorney's license to practice law in the State of Utah, a breach of this Agreement, or behavior that brings disrepute to other contract attorneys or to the County.
35. In the case of a breach or violation of a term of this Agreement, Attorney shall be given seven calendar days to cure the breach or violation. Failure of the Attorney to cure the breach or violation within the specified period shall result in termination of this Agreement. In the event this Agreement is terminated, the Parties agree that County may award this contract to other legal counsel and deduct the costs from the compensation identified in this Agreement.
36. In the event this Agreement is terminated or is not renewed, Attorney agrees to cooperate with his/her successor including the filing of all necessary pleadings for withdrawal and to deliver all applicable files, information, and materials to the successor.

**SECTION EIGHT  
MISCELLANEOUS**

37. Notice. Any notice required by this Agreement shall be given in writing addressed to the following unless otherwise designated in writing.

FOR THE COUNTY:

Weber County Attorney  
Civil Division  
2380 Washington Blvd., Suite 230  
Ogden, UT 84401

FOR THE ATTORNEY:

Gage Crowther  
2721 N 400 E **STE #5**  
North Ogden, UT 84414  
gagecrowther@gmail.com

38. Appeal. In the event that Attorney files a Notice of Appeal to the Utah Court of Appeals and/or the Utah Supreme Court, Attorney shall immediately contact the Coordinating Attorney to transition and turn over all relevant records within Attorney's possession or control to Appellate Counsel.

39. Modification. This Agreement can be changed, modified, or amended only by written agreement of the Parties.

40. Assignment. Attorney may not assign this Agreement or his performance under it, in whole or in part, without the prior written approval of the County.

41. Independent Contractor. Attorney is an independent contractor providing professional legal services to the County and is not an employee of the State of Utah or the County. Attorney is not entitled to any of the benefits of employment such as, but not limited to, retirement, health, or Workers Compensation coverage. Attorney is responsible to pay all taxes and fees that result from the compensation paid to Attorney under this Agreement.

42. Entire Agreement. This Agreement shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties and any prior understanding or representation of any kind preceding the date of this Agreement shall not be binding upon either Party except to the extent incorporated in this Agreement.

43. Laws. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Utah.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** the undersigned have affixed their respective signatures hereto the dates indicated below.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WEBER COUNTY

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Gage Froerer, Chair  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner Harvey voted \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Jenkins voted \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Froerer voted \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ricky Hatch, CPA  
Weber County

ATTORNEY

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Gage Crowther

Date 7/15/20

INDIGENT DEFENSE COORDINATOR

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael D. Bouwhuis

Date \_\_\_\_\_