



OFFICE OF THE
STATE AUDITOR

News Release

For Immediate Release

August 28, 2019

**Office of the State Auditor Releases an Audit of
Evidence Storage and Management
Among Selected Utah District and Juvenile Courts**

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

The Office of the State Auditor (Office) today announced the release of an Audit of Evidence Storage and Management Among Selected Utah District and Juvenile Courts (Court System). The Office identified four findings.

1. Finding 1 - Inadequate evidence management practices severely limit the ability to detect missing evidence.
2. Finding 2 – Court System has inadequate controls to protect evidence during storage.
3. Finding 3 - Insufficient controls over disposal of evidence.
4. Finding 4 - Lack of training and weak policies and procedures.

State Auditor John Dougall expressed his thoughts, “The Court System’s current tools and evidence management practices are not adequate to implement the needed level of evidence security. Inadequate oversight of evidence increases the risk that evidence could be lost, stolen, damaged, or tampered with. I appreciate the Court System’s immediate response to the recommendations in this audit and their prompt efforts to address these concerns.”

The audit report may be found on the Office’s website at auditor.utah.gov.

The Audit can be found specifically at:

<https://reporting.auditor.utah.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=0151K000003deG8QAI>

About the Office of the State Auditor

The Office of the State Auditor provides Utah taxpayers and government officials with an independent assessment of financial operation, statutory compliance, and performance management for state and local government.

Specific activities of the Office include performing financial audits, conducting Federal funds compliance audits, providing local government oversight, conducting agency and program performance audits, performing fraud and compliance audits, and operating the State Auditor Hotline for citizens to report suspected financial issues or improprieties. These capabilities

strengthen Utah State Government and help taxpayers have confidence in the integrity of Utah's government agencies.

The State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer of the State of Utah, elected directly by the state's citizens every four years. The role of the State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. For more information, see auditor.utah.gov.

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