

FILED
2025 JULY 8
CLERK
U.S. DISTRICT COURT

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF UTAH

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ASSIGNMENT OF
SOUTHERN REGION CASES

GENERAL ORDER

No. 25-002

Amends General Order 20-001

The District of Utah has two statutory divisions—a Northern Division and a Central Division.¹ On March 1, 2018, the District of Utah created a Southern Region of the Central Division (“Southern Region”).² This General Order amends General Order No. 20-001, addressing the establishment of the Southern Region. If there is any inconsistency between this General Order and General Order No. 20-001, this Order governs.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Clerk of Court shall assign numbers to civil and criminal cases arising in the Southern Region based on the county in which the case arises.³

¹ [28 U.S.C. §125](#).

² See General Order No. 20-001, entered on January 7, 2020, amending General Order No. 18-001, which was entered on May 9, 2018. Although the Southern Region is not a statutory division, it is a statistical unit and jury division under the [district jury plan](#).

³ A map depicting the physical boundaries of the Southern Region and the Utah counties within the Southern Region is included on page five of this General Order.

Division or Region	Case-Number Prefixes	Counties	Presumptive Location for Court Proceedings
Northern Division	1: (1:24-cv-001)	Box Elder, Cache, Davis, Morgan, Rich, and Weber	Salt Lake
Central Division (Excluding So. Region)	2: (2:24-cv-001)	Carbon, Daggett, Duchesne, Juab, Salt Lake, Summit, Tooele, Uintah, Utah, and Wasatch	Salt Lake
Southern Region of Central Division	4: (4:24-cv-001)	Beaver, Emery, Garfield, Grand, Iron, Kane, Millard, Piute, San Juan, Sanpete, Sevier, Washington, and Wayne	St. George

Southern Region cases will receive a case number beginning with a “4” prefix (e.g., 4:xx-xx-xxx). St. George is the presumptive location for court proceedings for all Southern Region cases.⁴

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT until local rules on these subjects are adopted, the following procedures are established related to the Southern Region.

1. Judge Assignment in Southern Region Cases

Southern Region cases will be randomly assigned to a judge who resides in the Southern Region and is assigned to St. George or to a judge in Salt Lake City who has agreed to accept case assignments in St. George.

Consistent with the principles of the court’s random case assignment system and Judicial Conference policy, the court is committed to ensuring the availability of more than one district judge in the Southern Region for both civil and criminal cases.

⁴ Although St. George is the presumptive court location for Southern Region cases, due to current budgetary restraints, limited personnel, and transportation issues, the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Utah (“USAO”), the Federal Public Defender’s Office for the District of Utah, and the court have agreed that until further notice the USAO may, on a case-by-case basis, designate SLC as the location for court proceedings for Southern Region cases brought under 18 U.S.C. §§ 1152 and 1153 (Indian country cases). Southern Region Indian country cases designated to be heard in SLC will be randomly assigned to a judge who resides in the Southern Region and is assigned to St. George or to a judge who has agreed to accept criminal case assignments in St. George.

In Southern Region cases, referrals to a magistrate judge will be made to a magistrate judge who resides in the Southern Region and is assigned to St. George, but in the event of a conflict or disqualification, the case may be referred, in coordination with the chief magistrate judge, to a magistrate judge in Salt Lake City who has agreed to accept case assignments in St. George.

2. Motions to Change Location

In the District of Utah, the presumptive location for court proceedings, whether Salt Lake City or St. George, may be changed by motion or by the court on reasonable notice. A change of location will generally not result in a change of judge.

A. To Change Location for a Particular Hearing

In a civil or criminal case, relevant considerations for a motion to change location for a particular hearing include the convenience of witnesses, parties, counsel, the public, and the court.

After meeting and conferring with other counsel who have appeared, a party to a case may file a motion requesting that a particular hearing be moved from St. George to Salt Lake City (or Salt Lake City to St. George) and identifying the reasons for changing the location of the particular hearing.

B. To Change Location for All Court Proceedings

In a civil or criminal case, a motion to change the location for all court proceedings is not governed by rules and case law for change of venue. To change the location for all court proceedings, appropriate considerations include resources, location of investigating agencies, court facilities, security, and any other relevant considerations.

In criminal cases, the court will also consider Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 18 which requires that “[t]he court must set the place of trial within the district with due regard for the convenience of the defendant, any victim, and the witnesses, and the prompt administration of justice.” Fed. R. Crim. P. 18.

After meeting and conferring with other counsel who have appeared, a party to a case may file a motion requesting to change the location of all court proceedings from St. George to Salt Lake City (or Salt Lake City to St. George) and identifying the reasons for changing the location for all court proceedings.

It is SO ORDERED this 8th day of July, 2025.

BY THE COURT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Shelby', is written over a horizontal line.

ROBERT J. SHELBY
Chief United States District Judge

The District of Utah
Northern Division, Central Division,
and the Southern Region of the Central Division

