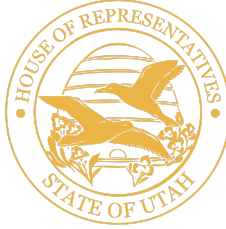


# UTAH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



June 19, 2025

Chief Justice Durrant:

We write today with deep concern over Judge Torgerson's sentencing decision and remarks in a case involving horrific child sex abuse material. Judge Torgerson's comment – "I've seen worse" – in reference to videos showing prepubescent children being raped and his repeated references to the offender's apparent "privilege" are flat-out unacceptable. These statements demonstrate an alarming lack of judgment.

Equally concerning is the Judiciary's subsequent public statement suggesting the prosecutor had agreed to probation rather than a prison sentence. That is not true. The plea agreement clearly states in item 5 that the parties had "no stipulation regarding additional incarceration time" and would argue their respective positions before the court. The elected Grand County attorney argued for prison time, and the presentence investigation report recommended 210 jail days. Judge Torgerson disregarded both and imposed what amounts to a slap on the wrist.

We completely understand that public officials, including judges, may occasionally misspeak or poorly phrase their thoughts when speaking off the cuff. At those times, the right thing to do is own it and apologize. Unfortunately, the Judiciary has yet to issue a correction or apologize for Judge Torgerson's offensive comments. This silence and lack of action undermine confidence in Utah's judicial system and send the wrong message about how our courts view the responsibility to protect our children. Accordingly, we reiterate our call for Judge Torgerson to resign immediately. Furthermore, we urge the Judiciary to investigate this matter thoroughly and take appropriate action.

Utahns deserve a system that reflects the highest standards of integrity, compassion, and responsibility. The Legislature and the Judiciary must get on the same page to swiftly and decisively resolve this and other issues. The people of Utah have placed their trust in us, and we must deliver.

Respectfully,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Schultz".

Speaker Mike Schultz  
Utah House of Representatives

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Romero".

Representative Angela Romero  
House Minority Leader