

## Guidelines for Drafting Fact Sheets

To help you with the fact sheets, here are some guidelines to follow as you research and write about the various issues. As an example, Neal attached a copy of the fact sheet that I drafted on inventory searches. Our lobbyist tells me that this fact sheet is a good example of what is needed. Based on that example and my own discussions with the lobbyist, here are some recommendations to assist you:

1. Fact sheets need not include specific solutions. Rather, they should identify current Utah law and possible problems that these laws pose. If we can propose obvious solutions, we should but they are not necessary. For example, current DUI law makes it very difficult for offenders to travel to work and to keep their jobs because of lost driving privileges. A fact sheet could explain how this situation sets up offenders for failure and actually leads to probation violations, further crime, and impoverished offenders. Families also suffer and we create dependency on the state. We could then propose an obvious solution of allowing offenders to drive to and from work.
2. Appeal to common themes on which that conservatives and liberal agree. Giving a helping hand, promoting personal responsibility, reducing recidivism are all things we can agree upon.
3. When applicable, focus on constitutional law. If a law is unconstitutional, it will cost the state money in court. As a result, changing the law is more efficient and saves money.
4. Include available case law and trends from other states. The legislature always wants to know if Utah is in line with prevailing standards around the country.
5. Search for best practices based on available science. NACDL, NLADA, ACLU, sentencing think tanks, constitutional and civil rights organizations, and criminal justice scholars are the main sources of science. Be sure that the science is sound and is not subject to reasonable dispute.
6. Look for available data from government agencies and think tanks. A simple Google search is sufficient to find any data. For example, the Utah courts publish statistics on criminal cases filed. Also, the FBI and DOJ have stats on crime rates. All of this information is available online.
7. Prosecutors tend to rely on anecdotes as opposed to case law, science, studies, data, etc. This is where we can prove that we are reliable and can be trusted.