

MINUTES
of the
SEVENTH MEETING
of the
COURTS, CORRECTIONS AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

November 6-7, 2025
State Capitol, Room 322
Santa Fe

The seventh meeting of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee was called to order by Senator Joseph Cervantes, chair, on November 6, 2025 at 9:16 a.m. in Room 322 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Chair
Rep. Christine Chandler, Vice Chair
Rep. Marianna Anaya
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Sen. Crystal Brantley
Rep. Nicole Chavez
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil
Sen. Antonio Maestas
Sen. Cindy Nava
Rep. Andrea Reeb
Rep. Andrea Romero (11/6)
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez (11/6)

Absent

Rep. William A. Hall II
Rep. Angelica Rubio

Advisory Members

Sen. Heather Berghmans (11/6)
Rep. John Block (11/6)
Rep. Cynthia Borrego
Rep. Eleanor Chávez (11/7)
Sen. Katy Duhigg
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary (11/6)
Sen. Natalie Figueroa
Rep. Joy Garratt
Sen. Steve D. Lanier
Rep. Stefani Lord (11/6)
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Rep. Alan T. Martinez (11/7)
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Sen. Mimi Stewart
Rep. Reena Szczepanski (11/7)
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton
Sen. Linda M. Trujillo
Sen. Peter Wirth

Rep. Gail Armstrong
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Sen. Micaelita Debbie O'Malley
Rep. Sarah Silva
Rep. Nathan P. Small

Guest Legislators

Rep. Joseph Franklin Hernandez (11/6)

Sen. William E. Sharer

Sen. Nicole Tobiassen (11/7)

Sen. Pat Woods

(Attendance dates are noted for members not present for the entire meeting.)

Staff

Nancy Martinez, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)

Sean Dolan, Staff Attorney, LCS

Simon Suzuki, Staff Attorney, LCS

Domenica Nieto, Research Assistant, LCS

Minutes Approval

Because the committee will not meet again this year, the minutes for this meeting have not been officially approved by the committee.

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and are posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Thursday, November 6

Welcome and Introductions (9:16 a.m.)

Senator Cervantes welcomed members of the committee and members of the public to the meeting.

Serious Youthful Offender 30-Year Review Procedure and Senate Bill 64 (2023) (9:26 a.m.)

Senator Sedillo Lopez; Stephen Taylor, executive director, (De)Serving Life; Denali Wilson, mitigation coordinator, (De)Serving Life; James Grayson, chief deputy attorney general, State Department of Justice; Aletheia Allen, solicitor general, State Department of Justice; and Kim Chavez-Cook, appellate defender, Public Defender Department, presented on a recent opinion from the attorney general that differs from the original intent of the bill. Each party

discussed the party's perspectives and the history of the bill, including potential changes to the statutes. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=11/6/2025&ItemNumber=1>.

No Kings — Attorney Fees and the American Rule vs. the English Rule (10:52 a.m.)

Ashley Sepulveda, student, University of New Mexico School of Law; Isabel de Katona, student, University of New Mexico School of Law; Benjamin Allbright, student, University of New Mexico School of Law; Alex Cervantes, attorney, Vigil Law Firm; and Lee Hunt, attorney, Hunt Law Firm, presented on the history of attorney fees in the United States and the United Kingdom, including benefits and down sides of each rule. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=11/6/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

Hometown Advantage — The Right to a Fair and Impartial Jury (11:06 a.m.)

Ms. Sepulveda, Ms. de Katona, Mr. Allbright, Ms. Cervantes and Mr. Hunt discussed the purpose of venue and how proper venue is established and reviewed New Mexico venue statutes. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=11/6/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

The Zorro Files: Tracing Epstein's Footprint in New Mexico (11:40 a.m.)

Representative Romero and Representative Anaya discussed potential legislation to be proposed regarding the creation of a truth commission to investigate information related to the ranch in New Mexico formerly owned by Jeffrey Epstein. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=11/6/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) Update on Juvenile Justice (12:28 p.m.)

Clayton Lobaugh, program evaluator, LFC; Guillermo Caraveo, program evaluator, LFC; and Rachel Mercer-Garcia, deputy director for program evaluation, LFC, previewed an upcoming LFC report regarding juvenile crime. The panelists presented data regarding juvenile crimes and juvenile convictions. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=11/6/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Medical Practice Insurance and the Patient's Compensation Fund (2:01 p.m.)

Alice T. Kane, superintendent, Office of Superintendent of Insurance; Christian Meyers, chief actuary, Office of Superintendent of Insurance; and Theresa Hacsí, attorney, discussed the state of medical malpractice, the shortage of physicians in the state and how the medical malpractice climate and the physician shortage relate. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=11/6/2025&ItemNumber=6>.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:43 p.m.

Friday, November 7

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 8:43 a.m.

Collaborating for Youth and Public Safety Initiative (8:44 a.m.)

Christina Gilbert, project manager, Corrections and Reentry, The Council of State Governments Justice Center, and Nina Salomon, deputy division director, Corrections and Reentry, The Council of State Governments Justice Center, presented data regarding juvenile public safety throughout the country, including what other states are doing to address the issue of juvenile crime. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=11/6/2025&ItemNumber=7>.

Proposed Changes to Malpractice Law: Caps, Limits and Fairness (9:43 a.m.)

Fred Nathan, Jr., founder and executive director, Think New Mexico, and Mark Epstein, M.D., presented their perspectives on what is driving the shortage of health care workers in the state. They presented proposed changes to medical malpractice laws. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=11/6/2025&ItemNumber=9>.

Patient Protection (12:59 p.m.)

Cid D. Lopez, attorney, and Zackeree S. Kelin, attorney, presented their perspectives on medical malpractice in the state and the physician shortage and proposed some solutions. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=11/6/2025&ItemNumber=10>.

Approval of Minutes (2:29 p.m.)

The committee approved the minutes of the October 16-17, 2025 meeting.

Access to Practice — New Mexico Rules on Medical Licensure (2:30 p.m.)

Karen Carson, chair, New Mexico Medical Board; Senator Duhigg; Senator Trujillo; and Representative Marian Matthews provided an overview of medical compacts throughout the nation and compared the national standards to New Mexico's. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=11/6/2025&ItemNumber=11>.

Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact (3:28 p.m.)

Senator Trujillo presented an overview of the framework of the Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact, including potential changes to the bill from previous versions.

Consideration of Legislation for Endorsement (3:33 p.m.)

The committee discussed legislation for endorsement for the 2026 regular legislative session. Legislation not considered for endorsement due to time was: 232173.1, 232174.2, 232175.2 and 232438.1. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=11/6/2025&ItemNumber=13>.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.