



Quick Facts

Indiana Trial Courts

Indiana has 400 local courts including superior, circuit, town, city, and small claims courts. There are approximately 571 judges and magistrates and 5,100 court employees statewide.

Civil and Criminal Cases

- More than 1.8 million new cases were filed in state trial courts in 2010 (most recently available data)
- Indiana courts have seen a 3% increase in the number of cases filed since 2001
- 205 murder cases were filed in trial courts in 2010
- 1,514 civil and criminal jury trials were held in 2010
- 361,969 cases included self-represented litigants
- Mortgage foreclosure filings increased 39% from 2002 to 2010
- 12,160 Child In Need of Services, or CHINS cases were filed across the state in 2010

The Judges

- Most trial court judges are elected to a 6-year term (there are exceptions in St. Joseph, Allen, Lake, and Vanderburgh Counties)
- Trial court judges hire and fire their own court staff including court reporters and probation officers
- Clerks are independently elected, but must maintain courts records according to Supreme Court rules

Funding & Programming

- Trial courts are primarily funded by their respective counties, mostly through property tax revenue
- It took nearly \$400 million to operate the courts in 2010 (state and county money)
- State funds pay for elected trial court judges' salaries

Division of State Court Administration

- The Division of State Court Administration (STAD) provides administrative guidance to the trial courts
- Administers judicial payroll and benefit accounts
- Collects workload and financial data on trial court operations
- Assists trial courts with technology improvements and provides grants

Indiana Judicial Center

- Develops and holds educational training sessions for judges, probation officers and court personnel
- Conducts legal research at the request of trial court judges and probation officers
- Provides staff support for nearly 30 judicial committees that set policy for the Judicial Conference
- Certifies court alcohol and drug programs and problem-solving courts
- Administers the interstate compacts regarding the transfer of offenders in and out of Indiana