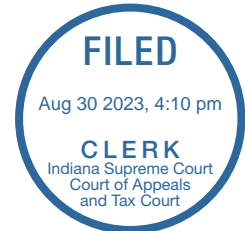


In the  
**Indiana Supreme Court**

In the Matter of the Approval of Local  
Rules for Hendricks County

Supreme Court Case No.  
23S-MS-238



**Order Approving Amended Local Rules**

The Judges of the Hendricks Circuit and Superior Courts request the approval of amended local rules for caseload allocation in accordance with Indiana Administrative Rule 1(E), for special judge assignments in accordance with Trial Procedure Rule 79, and for criminal case assignments in accordance with Criminal Procedure Rule 2.2. Attached to this Order are the proposed amended local rules.

Upon examination of the proposed rule amendments requested by the Hendricks Circuit and Superior Courts, this Court finds that the proposed rule amendments at LR32-AR1-Rule 1 comply with the requirements of Indiana Administrative Rule 1(E), the amendments at LR32-TR79-Rule 1 comply with Trial Procedure Rule 79, and the amendments at LR32-CR2.2-Rule 1 comply with Criminal Procedure Rule 2.2, and, accordingly, should be approved.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by this Court that amended Local Rule LR32-TR79-Rule 1, for the Hendricks Circuit and Superior Courts, set forth as an attachment to this Order, is approved effective September 1, 2023. It is further ordered by this Court that amended Local Rules LR32-AR1-Rule 1 and LR32-CR2.2-Rule 1, for the Hendricks Circuit and Superior Courts, set forth as attachments to this Order, are approved effective January 1, 2024.

Done at Indianapolis, Indiana, on 8/30/2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loretta H. Rush".

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Loretta H. Rush  
Chief Justice of Indiana

## LR32-AR1 Rule 1: Plan for Allocation of Judicial Resources

### Definitions

- A. “Week” shall mean 12:01 a.m. Friday until 12:00 a.m. the following Friday.
  
- B. The “weekly rotation” for assignment of cases shall be:
  - 1. “Week 1” means Hendricks Circuit Court.
  - 2. “Week 2” means Hendricks Superior Court No. 2.
  - 3. “Week 3” means Hendricks Superior Court No. 4.
  - 4. “Week 4” means Hendricks Superior Court No. 5.

Criminal Cases. Criminal case assignment will operate as specified in LR32-CR2.2 Rule 1.

### Juvenile Cases

- 1. All JCs, JDs, JSs, JPs, JMs, JTs, and J-Qs shall be filed in Hendricks Superior Court No. 3.
- 2. In the event the judge of Hendricks Superior Court No. 3 enters an order of disqualification or recusal on a pending JC, JD, JS, JP, JM, JT, or JQ, that case shall be transferred to another local judge.

### Remaining Civil Cases

- A. Civil Plenary. PLs shall be filed in Hendricks Circuit Court and Hendricks Superior Court No. 4 subject to the case type limits set forth in Appendix A.
  
- B. Civil Tort. CTs shall be filed in Hendricks Superior Court No. 1 and Hendricks Superior Court No. 4 subject to the case type limits set forth in Appendix A.
  
- C. Civil Collection. CCs shall be filed in Hendricks Circuit Court and Hendricks Superior Court No. 5 subject to the case type limits set forth in Appendix A.
  
- D. Domestic Relations
  - 1. Except as set forth below, Domestic Relations With Children (DCs) shall be filed in Hendricks Circuit Court, Hendricks Superior Court No. 1, Hendricks Superior Court No. 2, Hendricks Superior Court No. 3, and Hendricks Superior Court No. 4 subject to the case type limits set forth in Appendix A.

2. Except as set forth below, Domestic Relations No Children (DNs) shall be filed in Hendricks Superior Court No. 1 and Hendricks Superior Court No. 2, subject to the case type limits set forth in Appendix A.
  3. DCs involving children who are the subject of a pending JC or JT shall be filed in Hendricks Superior Court No. 3 regardless of that court's case type limit.
  4. When all courts have reached their limit for DCs, a party may choose to file a DC in Hendricks Circuit Court, Hendricks Superior Court No. 1, Hendricks Superior Court No. 2, Hendricks Superior Court No. 3, or Hendricks Superior Court No. 4.
  5. When all courts have reached their limit for DNs, a party may choose to file a DN in Hendricks Superior Court No. 1 or Hendricks Superior Court No. 2.
- E. Miscellaneous. All MIs shall be filed in Hendricks Superior Court No. 5.
- F. Mortgage Foreclosure. All MFs shall be filed in Hendricks Superior Court No. 2.
- G. Order of Protection
1. POs shall be filed in Hendricks Superior Court No. 1, Hendricks Superior Court No. 2, and Hendricks Superior Court No. 3 on an even and random basis.
  2. POs filed by a party to a previously-filed (and not dismissed) DR, DC, DN, JP, or PO shall be filed in the same court as the prior DR, DC, DN, JP, or PO.
  3. If a petitioner seeks an order of protection against an unemancipated minor pursuant to IC 34-26-5-2, the case shall be filed in Hendricks Superior Court No. 3.
- H. Probate
1. Except as set forth below, all ADs, ESs, EUs, EMs, GMs, GUs, and TRs be filed in Hendricks Superior Court No. 1.
  2. GUs and GMs of a minor child who is the subject of a pending JC or JT shall be filed in Hendricks Superior Court No. 3.
- I. Small Claims. SCs shall be filed in Hendricks Superior Court No. 1, Hendricks Superior Court No. 2, Hendricks Superior Court No. 3, and Hendricks Superior Court No. 4, and Hendricks Superior Court No. 5 on an even and random basis.

- J. Eviction. All EVs shall be filed in Hendricks Superior Court No. 3 Hendricks Superior Court No. 5.
- K. Reciprocal Support
1. All RSs shall be filed in Hendricks Superior Court No. 3.
  2. In the event the judge of Hendricks Superior Court No. 3 enters an order of disqualification or recusal on a pending RS, that case shall be transferred to another local judge.
- L. Tax Deed/Tax Sale. All Verified Petitions for Issuance of a Tax Deed (TPs) and Applications of Judgment in a Tax Sale (TSs) shall be filed in Hendricks Circuit Court.
- M. Mental Health. All MHs shall be filed in Hendricks Superior Court No. 1.
- N. Expungement. All expungements shall be assigned in the same manner as criminal cases are filed in these courts.
- O. In the event a party in a civil case does not request to file in a particular court, the case shall be assigned on a random basis to a court that hears that case type, subject to the case type limits set forth in Appendix A.

#### Reassignment

- A. When a court has reached its limit for a case type, no additional cases of that type shall be filed in that court until all other courts have reached their limit for that case type as set forth in Appendix A.
- B. When a court has reached its limit for a case type, the Clerk shall notify all courts of this fact and post notice to this effect in the Clerk's Office.
- C. Except where these rules provide otherwise, when all courts have reached their limit for a case type, any additional cases of that type shall be assigned on a rotating basis among the courts that hear that case type.
- D. This rule does not limit the authority of the judges and magistrates of the courts of record in the county to preside over hearings or issue orders for one another to promote efficiency and provide for timely resolution of cases.

- E. Cases transferred from one court to another shall not be included in the receiving court's limit for that case type as set forth in Appendix A.

Evaluation of Caseload. The judges of the Hendricks County Courts shall develop and implement a caseload allocation plan for the county that ensures an even distribution of judicial caseloads among the judges. Changes necessary to ensure this even distribution shall be developed and implemented consistent with Indiana Administrative Rule 1.

	C 0 1	D 0 1	D 0 2	D 0 3	D 0 4	D 0 5
CC	8 2 8					8 2 8
CT		9 8			9 8	
DC	5 0	1 6 0	5 0	5 0	5 0	
DN		9 0	2 7 5			
EV				A 1 1		
JC/JD/JS/JP/J M/JT/JQ				A 1 1		
MF			A 1 1			
MH/AD/ES/EU /EM/GM/GU/T R		A 1 1				
MI						A 1 1
PL	8 0				8 0	

PO		$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$		
RS				A 1 1		
SC		$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	
TP/TS	A 1 1					

LR32-TR79 Rule 1: Special Judge Selection in Civil Cases

*Judicial Administrative District Special Judge Rule*

Disqualification or Recusal of Judge

Upon disqualification or recusal of a judge under Trial Rule 79, an eligible special judge shall be appointed in all civil and juvenile proceedings on a rotating basis from the full-time judicial officers (elected judges and magistrates) within Administrative District 16 (Hendricks and Morgan Counties).

*Hendricks County*

LR32-TR79 Rule 1 Disqualification or Recusal of Judge

Upon disqualification or recusal of a judge under Trial Rule 79, an eligible special judge shall be appointed in all civil and juvenile proceedings on a rotating basis from the full-time judicial officers (elected judges and magistrates) within Administrative District 16 (Hendricks and Morgan Counties).

Procedure for Appointment

Upon disqualification or recusal of a judge under Trial Rule 79(C) or in the event the parties do not agree to an eligible special judge or the agreed upon judge does not accept the case under Trial Rule 79(D), an eligible special judge shall be appointed in all civil and juvenile proceedings for Administrative District 16 as follows:

- A. Priority Given to Local Appointments. Special judge appointments shall be made within the local county on a rotating basis, so long as a judge within that county remains eligible to serve as special judge. Upon issuance of the order of appointment, the special judge may request that the case be transferred to his or her court.

- B. Secondary to Outside County Appointments. If no judge within the local county is eligible to serve as special judge, a special judge shall be appointed on a rotating basis from the full-time judicial officers (judges and magistrates) of the other county within Administrative District 16 who are eligible to serve as special judge.
  
- C. No Eligible Special Judge. If no full-time judicial officer within Administrative District 16 is eligible to serve as special judge or the circumstance of a case warrants selection of a special judge by the Indiana Supreme Court, the judicial officer of the court in which the case is pending shall certify the matter to the Indiana Supreme Court for appointment of a special judge.

#### Acceptance Mandatory

- A. A judicial officer appointed to serve as special judge under this rule must accept jurisdiction in the case unless the appointed special judge is disqualified pursuant to the Code of Judicial Conduct, ineligible for service under this rule, or excused from service by the Indiana Supreme Court.
  
- B. The order of appointment under this rule shall constitute acceptance. An oath or additional evidence of acceptance of jurisdiction is not required.

## LR32-CR2.2 Rule 1: Assignment of Criminal Cases

### Definitions

- A. “Week” shall mean 12:01 a.m. Friday until 12:00 a.m. the following Friday.
  
- B. The “weekly rotation” for assignment of cases shall be:
  - 1. “Week 1” means Hendricks Circuit Court.
  - 2. “Week 2” means Hendricks Superior Court No. 2.
  - 3. “Week 3” means Hendricks Superior Court No. 4.
  - 4. “Week 4” means Hendricks Superior Court No. 5.
  
- C. “Pending criminal case” means a criminal case in which there is either no disposition of the charge(s) via a determination of guilt or dismissal or the defendant has not yet been discharged from the sentence imposed, including probation.

### Criminal Case Assignment

- A. General Rule
  - 1. Except as set forth below, all criminal case types shall be assigned according to the weekly rotation as defined in this rule by the date on which the offense alleged in the charging document (including grand jury indictments) occurred.
  - 2. During Week 2, all criminal case types except F6s and CMs shall be assigned to Hendricks Superior Court No. 4.
  - 3. During Week 3, all CMs shall be assigned to Hendricks Superior Court No. 2.
  - 4. In the event of multiple offenses, the date on which the earliest offense alleged in the charging document occurred shall govern the assignment. Filing of multiple offenses shall comply with Indiana Administrative Rule 1(B)
  - 5. In the event a charging document does not set forth a date on which the alleged offense occurred, the case shall be assigned to a court of record in the county on a random basis.
  - 6. The week beginning 12:01 a.m. on Friday, December 31, 2021 shall be deemed Week 4.
  
- B. Domestic Violence Cases. All cases filed under IC 35-42-2-1.3 or IC 35-46-1-15.1 shall be assigned to Hendricks Superior Court No. 5.



- C. Escape or Failure to Return to Lawful Detention Cases. All cases filed under IC 35-44.1-3-4 shall be assigned to the court that issued the order that the defendant allegedly violated by committing escape.
- D. Post-Conviction Relief Petitions
1. All PCs shall be assigned to the same court where the defendant was tried or pled guilty.
  2. In the event the defendant was tried or pled guilty in another county, the PC shall be assigned according to the weekly rotation as defined in this rule.
- E. Miscellaneous Criminal Cases
1. Except as set forth below, all MCs shall be assigned according to the weekly rotation as defined in this rule.
  2. When a defendant has a pending criminal case in the Hendricks Circuit or Superior Courts, the Hendricks County Prosecuting Attorney shall file all search warrant requests as MCs in the court presiding over the criminal case.
  3. In the event the prosecutor declines to file charges against an individual who has been arrested – whether released on bond from the Hendricks County Jail or not – the prosecutor shall file a notice of declination of criminal charges. This notice shall be assigned an MC case type.
- F. Red Flag. All RFs shall be assigned according to the weekly rotation as defined in this rule.
- G. Infractions and Ordinance Violations
1. Unless filed as additional charges in a felony or misdemeanor proceeding – in which case the infractions shall be resolved in conjunction with the felony or misdemeanor proceeding:
    - a. All IFs issued by the Danville Police Department shall be assigned to Hendricks Superior Court No. 5.
    - b. All IFs issued by the Avon Police Department shall be assigned to Brownsburg Town Court.
    - c. All other IFs shall be assigned to the appropriate Town Court.
  2. All OV's issued by the Towns of Amo or Danville shall be assigned to Hendricks Superior Court No. 5.
  3. All OV's issued by the Town of Avon shall be assigned to Brownsburg Town Court.

4. All other OV's shall be assigned to the appropriate Town Court.

#### H. Town Courts

1. Brownsburg Town Court

- a. All CM's that occur within the limits of the town of Brownsburg shall be assigned to Brownsburg Town Court except cases filed under:

- i. IC 9-30-5-1,
- ii. IC 9-30-5-2,
- iii. IC 35-42-2-1.3, or
- iv. IC 35-46-1-15.1.

2. Plainfield Town Court

- a. All CM's that occur within the limits of the town of Plainfield shall be assigned to Plainfield Town Court except cases filed under:

- i. IC 9-30-5-1,
- ii. IC 9-30-5-2,
- iii. IC 35-42-2-1.3, or
- iv. IC 35-46-1-15.1.

#### Re-Filings and Subsequent Filings

- A. Subsequent to Dismissals. In the event the State of Indiana dismisses a case or charge, any subsequent re-filing of that case or charge against the defendant shall be assigned to the court from which the dismissal was taken.

- B. Filing of Additional Charges. When additional charges are filed against a defendant subsequent to the assignment of the case, all such additional charges to be resolved in conjunction with the pending criminal case shall be assigned to the court of initial assignment.

- C. New Causes of Action

1. When a new cause of action is filed against a defendant in a Town Court who is on probation or is a defendant in an existing felony or misdemeanor proceeding in a court of record in the county, the judge of the court of record may accept transfer of the Town Court case.
2. When a new cause of action is filed against a defendant in a court of record in the county who is on probation or is a defendant in an existing felony or misdemeanor proceeding in another court of record

in the county, the judges shall confer to determine into which court to consolidate all proceedings.

3. If the judges in subsection (2) cannot agree upon which court to consolidate all proceedings, all proceedings in subsection (2) shall remain separate.

#### Reassignment

- A. In the event a change of judge is granted or it becomes necessary to assign another judge in any felony or misdemeanor proceeding, the case shall be returned to the Clerk for random assignment to another court of record that hears that case type.
- B. A judge, by appropriate order entered in the record of judgments and orders, may transfer and reassign any pending criminal case to any other court of record in the county, subject to acceptance by the receiving court.
- C. This rule does not limit the authority of the judges and magistrates of the courts of record in the county to preside over hearings or issue orders for one another to promote efficiency and provide for timely resolution of cases.

#### Appointment of Special Judge

- A. In the event a local judge is unavailable to accept reassignment of a case pursuant to this local rule, the case shall be returned to the Clerk for random reassignment from a list of full-time judicial officers from contiguous counties and counties within Administrative District 16 and senior judges.
- B. In the event no judge under this rule is available for appointment or the judge presiding in a felony or misdemeanor case concludes that the unique circumstances presented in such proceeding require appointment by the Indiana Supreme Court of a special judge, the presiding judge may request the Indiana Supreme Court for such appointment.

#### Waiver of Juvenile Jurisdiction

- A. All cases involving an individual who was at least 16 years of age at the time of the alleged violation and who is charged with one of several felony offenses listed under IC 31-30-1-4 (direct files) shall be assigned to Hendricks Superior Court No. 5.
- B. In the event the juvenile court waives jurisdiction under IC 31-30-3-2 to -6, the adult criminal case shall be assigned to Hendricks Superior Court No. 5.