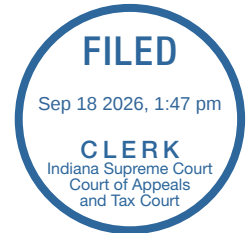


In the
Indiana Supreme Court

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

Supreme Court Case No.
26S-MS-325



Order Approving Amended Local Rules

The Judges of the Noble Circuit and Superior Courts request the approval of amended local rules for caseload allocation in accordance with Administrative Rule 1(E), for court reporter services in accordance with Administrative Rule 15, for civil case special judge assignments in accordance with Trial Rule 79, and for criminal case special judge assignments in accordance with Administrative Rule 21. Attached to this Order are the proposed amended local rules.

Upon examination of the proposed rule amendments requested by the Noble Circuit and Superior Courts, this Court finds that the proposed amendments to LR57-AR 1-2 comply with the requirements of Administrative Rule 1(E), the amendments to LR57-AR 15 comply with Administrative Rule 15, the amendments to LR57-AR 1-1 comply with Trial Rule 79 and Administrative Rule 21, and, accordingly, should be approved.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by this Court that amended Local Rules, LR57-AR 1-2, LR57-AR 15, and LR57-AR 1-1, for the Noble Circuit and Superior Courts, set forth as attachments to this Order, are approved effective January 1, 2027.

Done at Indianapolis, Indiana, on 9/18/2026 .

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Loretta H. Rush", written over a horizontal line.

Loretta H. Rush
Chief Justice of Indiana

LR57-AR 1-1 Transfer of Cases

(A) Pursuant to Indiana Administrative Rule 1(E):

- (1) A case may be transferred to another court within Noble County with the consent of the receiving court;
- (2) A judge of a court in Noble County may sit as judge of the Noble Circuit Court or Noble Superior Courts in any matter as if the elected Judge of that court with the consent of the judge of that court; and
- (3) Each judge may sit in the stead of the other judges of the courts in Noble County

(B) Civil Cases

(1) In the event of a change of judge resulting from (1) the judge disqualifying or recusing under Trial Rule 79(C), or (2) the judge does not accept the special judge appointment under Trial Rule 79(D), or (3) a motion for change of judge is granted as provided for in Trial Rule 76, then unless the parties agree to the appointment of a special judge pursuant to Trial Rule 79(D) the case will be randomly assigned by the clerk to one of the two other courts in Noble County in which the regular sitting judge of that court is not otherwise disqualified. If neither of the other two judges in Noble County are eligible to hear the case, then the clerk shall appoint an eligible judge (including senior judges) from a contiguous county within the court's administrative district as special judge for the case in which the change of judge is required. If the case is not transferred as provided for herein, or if a special judge is not appointed by the foregoing method, or if the particular circumstances of a case warrants selection of a special judge by the Indiana Supreme Court, the court shall certify the case to the Supreme Court of Indiana for the appointment of a special judge per Indiana Trial Rule 79(K).

(C) Criminal Cases

(1) In the event a change of judge is granted pursuant to Criminal Rule 2.4, or an order of disqualification or recusal is entered, the case will be randomly assigned by the clerk to one of the two other courts in Noble County in which the regular sitting judge of that court is not otherwise disqualified. If neither of the other two judges in Noble County are eligible to hear the case, then the clerk shall appoint an eligible judge (including senior judges) from a contiguous county as special judge for the case in which the change of judge is required. If the case is not transferred as provided for herein, or if a special judge is not appointed by the foregoing method, or if the particular

circumstances of a case warrants selection of a special judge by the Indiana Supreme Court, the court shall certify the case to the Supreme Court of Indiana for the appointment of a special judge.

LR57-AR 1-2 Caseload Allocation Plan

(A) Pursuant to Indiana Administrative Rule 1, cases filed in the Noble Circuit and Superior Courts will adhere to the following caseload allocation plan.

(B) Criminal Cases: The Prosecuting Attorney of Noble County shall file cases according to the classification of the highest level of offense charged in the information or indictment.

(1) F5, F4, and F3 cases shall be filed in Circuit Court.

(2) F6, F2, F1, and MR cases shall be filed in Superior Court I.

(3) CM cases shall be filed in Superior Court II.

(4) RF cases shall be filed in the court in which the respondent has a pending criminal case. If there is no pending criminal case, it shall be filed in Circuit Court.

(C) Civil Cases

(1) All AD, ES, EU, EM, GU, TR, TS, TP, JP, and pro se DR, DC, and DN case types shall be filed in Circuit Court.

(2) All JD, JS, JM, MH, and PO case types shall be filed in Superior Court I.

(3) All SC, JC, JT, OV, EV, OE, and IF case types shall be filed in Superior Court II. The following case types shall not be filed in Superior Court II: MF, RS, DR, DC, and DN.

(4) All CC case types shall be filed equally between Superior Court I and Superior Court II. Cause numbers ending with an even number shall be filed in Superior Court I. Cause numbers ending with an odd number shall be filed in Superior Court II.

(5) All CT case types shall be filed equally between Superior Court I and Superior Court II. Cause numbers ending with an even number shall be filed in Superior Court I. Cause numbers ending with an odd number shall be filed in Superior Court II.

(6) All PL case types shall be filed equally between Superior Court I and Superior Court II. Cause numbers ending with an even number shall be filed in Superior Court I. Cause numbers ending with an odd number shall be filed in Superior Court II.

(7) The following case types shall not be filed in Circuit Court: CC, CT, and PL.

(D) Any case types not otherwise specifically provided for herein may be filed in either the Circuit Court, Superior Court I, or Superior Court II at the initiating party's discretion.

LR57-AR 15 Court Reporter Services

(A) Section One – Definitions. The following definitions shall apply under this local rule:

- (1) A Court Reporter is a person who is specifically designated by a court to perform the official court reporting services for the court including preparing a transcript of the record.
- (2) Equipment means all physical items owned by the court or other governmental entity and used by a court reporter in performing court reporting services. Equipment shall include, but not be limited to, telephones, computer hardware, software programs, disks, tapes, and any other device used for recording and storing, and transcribing electronic data.
- (3) Workspace means that portion of the court's facilities dedicated to each court reporter, including but not limited to actual space in the courtroom and any designated office space.
- (4) Page means the page unit of transcript, which when a recording is transcribed in the form required by Indiana Rule of Appellate Procedures 28.
- (5) Recording means the electronic, mechanical, and stenographic or other recording made as required by Indiana Trial Rule 74.
- (6) Regular hours worked means those hours which the reporter is regularly scheduled to work during any given workweek. Depending on the particular court, these hours may vary from court to court within the county but remain the same for each workweek.
- (7) Gap hours worked means those hours worked that are in excess of the regular hours worked but hours not in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek.
- (8) Overtime hours worked means those hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek.
- (9) Workweek means a seven (7) consecutive day week that consistently begins and ends on the same days through the year, i.e. Sunday through Saturday, Wednesday through Tuesday, Friday through Thursday.
- (10) Court means the particular court for which the Court Reporter performs services.
- (11) County indigent transcript means a transcript that is paid for from county funds and is for the use by a litigant who has been declared indigent by a court.

- (12) State indigent transcript means a transcript that is paid for from state funds and is for the use by a litigant who has been declared indigent by a court.
- (13) Private transcript means a transcript, including but not limited to a deposition transcript that is paid for by a private party.
- (14) Expedited transcript means a transcript, which is required to be completed within five (5) days.
- (15) File means a physical or digital compilation prepared by a Court Reporter, including a flash drive/USB or digital video disc (DVD).

(B) Section Two – Salaries and Per Page Fees

- (1) Court Reporters shall be paid an annual salary for time spent working under the control, direction and direct supervision of their supervising court during regular work hours, gap hours or overtime hours. The supervising court shall enter into a written agreement with the court reporters which outlines the manner in which the court reporter is to be compensated for gap and overtime hours, i.e., monetary compensation or compensatory time off regular work hours. All per page fees for the preparation of transcripts shall be paid directly to the Court Reporter who prepared the transcript and shall be retained by that reporter.
- (2) The per page fee for a court reporter may charge for preparation of a COUNTY INDIGENT transcript shall be \$5.50. If a court reporter is requested to prepared an expedited transcript, the maximum per page fee shall be no less than \$8.00 where the transcript must be prepared within five (5) working days. However, this would be subject to the approval of the presiding Judge. If a party requests a copy of a transcript, the fee per page shall be in the amount charged for copies by the Clerk of that Court, or electronic copies of the transcript will be provided on a file format supplied by the party requesting the document, if requested in person from the Court Reporter for a \$5.50 flat fee regardless of the size. Any pro se media device shall be presented in its original commercial packaging.
- (3) The per page fee a court reporter may charge for preparation of a STATE INDIGENT transcript shall be \$5.50. If a court reporter is requested to prepare an expedited transcript, the maximum fee per page shall be no less than \$8.00 where the transcript must be prepared within five (5) working days. However, this would be by approval of the presiding Judge. If a party requests a copy of a transcript, the per page fee shall be

in the amount charged for copies by the Clerk of that Court, or electronic copies of the transcript provided on a file format supplied by the party requesting the document, if requested in person from the Court Reporter for a \$3.00 flat fee regardless of the size. Any pro se media device shall be presented in its original commercial packaging.

- (4) The per page fee a court reporter may charge for the preparation of a PRIVATE transcript shall be no less than \$5.50. If a court reporter is requested to prepare an expedited transcript, the maximum fee per page shall be no less than \$8.00 where the transcript must be prepared within five (5) working days. If a party requests a copy of a transcript, the fee per page shall be in the amount charged by the Clerk of that Court, or electronic copies of the transcript will be provided on a file format supplied by the party requesting the document, if requested in person from the Court Reporter for a \$3.00 flat fee regardless of the size. Any pro se media device shall be presented in its original commercial packaging.
- (5) The minimum fee that a court reporter may charge for transcripts is \$50.00.
- (6) Each court reporter shall report, at least on an annual basis, all transcript fees received for preparation of either county indigent, state indigent, or private transcripts to the Indiana Supreme Court Division of State Court Administration.
The reporting shall be made on forms prescribed by the Division of State Court Administration.
- (7) No transcripts shall be prepared during the Court Reporters' regular hours or gap hours.

(C) Section Three – Private Practice

- (1) If a court reporter elects to engage in private practice through the recording of a deposition and/or preparing of deposition transcript, and the court reporter desires to utilize the court's equipment, work space and supplies, and the court agrees to the use of the court equipment for such purpose, the court and the court reporter shall enter into a written agreement which must, at a minimum designate the following:
 - (i) The reasonable market rate for the use of equipment, workspace and supplies.
 - (ii) The method by which records are to be kept for the use of equipment, workspace and supplies; and
 - (iii) The method by which the court reporter is to reimburse the court for the use of

the equipment, workspace and supplies.

- (2) If a court reporter elects to engage in private practice through the recording of a deposition and/or preparing of a deposition transcript, all such private practice work shall be conducted outside of regular working hours.