

**STATE OF INDIANA – COUNTY OF STARKE
IN THE STARKE CIRCUIT COURT**

**Notice of Proposed New Rule or Amendments to Local Court Rules
October 5, 2026**

In accordance with Trial Rule 81 of the Indiana Court Rules, the Starke Circuit Court hereby gives notice to the bar and the public that the Court proposes to amend the Local Rules on the assignment of special judges in civil and criminal cases for the Starke Circuit Court, effective December 1, 2026.

All new text is shown by underlining and deleted text is shown by ~~striketrough~~. Supreme Court approval is required for Local Rules concerning special judge assignments and will not take effect until approved by the Supreme Court.

Notice has been given to the public by posting on the website of the Starke County Clerk and at the Indiana Judiciary webpage for Local Rules (<https://www.in.gov/courts/publications/local-rules/>), and by furnishing a copy to the officers of the Starke County Bar Association. A paper copy of the proposed amended local rules will be made available for viewing in the office of the Clerk of Starke County, Courthouse, 53 E. Washington, Knox, IN, 46534, during normal business hours.

The time period for the bar and the public to comment shall begin on October 5, 2026, and shall close on November 5, 2026. The proposed amendments to the rule will be adopted, modified, or rejected before November 13, 2026, and, if required, the final version of the rule will be submitted to the Indiana Supreme Court for review and approval not later than November 18, 2026.

Comments by the bar and the public should be made in writing to:

Hon. Kim Hall, Judge of the Starke Circuit Court, Attn: Public Comment on Local Rules, Starke Circuit Court, Courthouse, 53 E. Washington St., Knox, IN, 46534, or by email to Rachel Meadows, Starke Circuit Court Administrator at rmeadows@starke.in.gov.

DATED this 1st day of October 2026, on behalf of the Judge of Starke County.

_____/S/_____
Kim Hall, Judge
Starke Circuit Court

LR75-TR79-7
SPECIAL JUDGES

- 1.1 In all civil cases, when the appointment of a special judge is required under Trial Rule 76, or upon disqualification or recusal of the Judge of the Starke Circuit Court under Trial Rule 79 (C), and the parties cannot agree to an eligible special judge under Trial Rule 79 (D), the clerk shall assign the case to the Starke Circuit Court Magistrate.
- 1.2 If the Starke Circuit Court Magistrate is prohibited from hearing the case, the clerk of the court shall select a special judge from the following list of full time judicial officers Pulaski County. The appointment shall occur in the following sequence on a rotating basis:

Pulaski Circuit Court Judge
~~LaPorte Circuit Court Judge~~
Pulaski Superior Court Judge
~~LaPorte Superior Court #1 Judge~~
~~LaPorte Superior Court #2 Judge~~
~~LaPorte Superior Court #3 Judge~~
~~LaPorte Superior Court #4 Judge~~
~~LaPorte Circuit Court #1 Magistrate~~
~~LaPorte Circuit Court #2 Magistrate~~
~~LaPorte Superior Court #4 Magistrate~~

- 1.3 If a full-time judicial officer in Pulaski County is unable to serve on a Starke County case as special judge, then the case shall be sent to LaPorte County. The appointment shall occur in the following sequence on a rotating basis:

LaPorte Circuit Court Judge
LaPorte Superior Court #1 Judge
LaPorte Superior Court #2 Judge
LaPorte Superior Court #3 Judge
LaPorte Superior Court #4 Judge
LaPorte Circuit Court #1 Magistrate
LaPorte Circuit Court #2 Magistrate
LaPorte Superior Court #4 Magistrate

- 1.4 A trial court may request the Indiana Supreme Court appoint a special judge in the following circumstances:

no judge under the local rule is available for appointment; or
the circumstance warrants selection of a special judge by the Indiana Supreme Court.

- ~~1.3 If a special judge cannot be selected using the procedure set out above, then the judge in the case shall certify the same to the Indiana Supreme Court for appointment of a special judge.~~

LR75-AR21-2

CASE REASSIGNMENT AND SPECIAL JUDGES

1.1 In all criminal cases, whenever the Judge of the Starke Circuit Court grants a change of judge, or disqualifies or recuses himself, the clerk shall assign the case to the Starke Circuit Court magistrate.

1.2 If the Starke Circuit Court magistrate is prohibited from hearing the case, then the clerk of the court shall select a Special Judge from a list of full-time judicial officers in Pulaski County and LaPorte counties. The list appointment shall follow-occur in the following this sequence on a rotating basis:

Pulaski Circuit Court Judge
~~LaPorte Circuit Court Judge~~
Pulaski Superior Court Judge
~~LaPorte Superior Court #1 Judge~~
~~LaPorte Superior Court #2 Judge~~
~~LaPorte Superior Court #3 Judge~~
~~LaPorte Superior Court #4 Judge~~
~~LaPorte Circuit Court #1 Magistrate~~
~~LaPorte Circuit Court #2 Magistrate~~
~~LaPorte Superior Court #4 Magistrate~~

1.3 If a full-time judicial officer in Pulaski County is unable to serve as special judge, then the case shall be sent to LaPorte County. The appointment shall occur in the following sequence on a rotating basis:

LaPorte Circuit Court Judge
LaPorte Superior Court #1 Judge
LaPorte Superior Court #2 Judge
LaPorte Superior Court #3 Judge
LaPorte Superior Court #4 Judge
LaPorte Circuit Court #1 Magistrate
LaPorte Circuit Court #2 Magistrate
LaPorte Superior Court #4 Magistrate

1.4 If no full-time judicial officer within District 3 can hear the case, the clerk shall select a full-time judicial officer from the counties contiguous to Starke County in the following sequence on a rotating basis.

The full-time judicial officers of the Jasper Circuit and Superior Courts.
The full-time judicial officers of the Marshall Circuit and Superior Courts.
The full-time judicial officers of the Porter Circuit and Superior Courts.
The full-time judicial officers of the St. Joseph Circuit and Superior Courts.

- 1.4-5 A trial court may request the Indiana Supreme Court appoint a special judge in the following circumstances:
 - no judge under the local rule is available for appointment; or
 - the circumstance warrants selection of a special judge by the Indiana Supreme Court.

~~In the event that a special judge appointed pursuant to this procedure is unable to serve, then the clerk shall select the next judge on the list. In the event the Judge presiding in a felony or misdemeanor case concludes that the unique circumstance presented in such proceeding require appointment by the Indiana Supreme Court of a special judge, this presiding judge may request the Indiana Supreme Court for such appointment.~~