



Office of Court Services

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Introduction

This memo, issued on June 2, 2025, provides clarification regarding the applicability of livestreaming requirements to local Justice Reinvestment Advisory Councils (JRACs).

Background

In 2023, House Enrolled Act 1167-2023 was enacted, mandating that certain public governing bodies in Indiana enhance transparency by livestreaming and archiving their public meetings. The Indiana Office of Court Services reviewed the Public Access Counselor's [Informal Opinion 24-INF-01](#) for this analysis. The analysis below supports the conclusion that local JRACs **are not required to livestream their meetings** under the provisions of HEA 1167-2023.

Analysis

- **Judicial Nature:** Local JRACs are established under Title 33 of the Indiana Code, which governs courts and judicial officers. Their placement in this section indicates that they are judicial in nature, and judicial entities are explicitly excluded from the Open Door Law (ODL) definition of a “public agency.”
- **Not Classified as Advisory Bodies:** The statutory duties of local JRACs have been determined to include making recommendations, not “advising”, a governing body of a public agency. Therefore, they do not meet the ODL criteria for public advisory bodies.
- **Mixed Membership, But Judicial Function:** While local JRACs are unique from purely judicial groups due to their inclusion of non-judicial members, their core functions remain judicial, which suggests that they are exempt from the ODL.
- **Public Records Still Accessible:** Although meetings are not required to be open or livestreamed, records such as agendas, minutes, and reports are generally considered public under the Access to Public Records Act and must be made available upon request unless an exemption applies.

Conclusion

While there is no statutory obligation for livestreaming, Local JRACs are always encouraged to promote transparency when possible.