

In the Indiana Supreme Court

In the Matter of the Approval of District
Rules for Judicial District 17

Supreme Court Case No.
25S-MS-263



Order Approving Amended District Rules

The Judges of Judicial District 17, comprised of Hancock, Johnson, and Shelby counties, request the approval of amended district rules for special judge assignments in accordance with Trial Rule 79 and Administrative Rule 21, and for court reporter services in accordance with Administrative Rule 15. Attached to this Order are the proposed amended district rules.

Upon examination of the proposed rule amendments requested by Judicial District 17, this Court finds that the proposed amendments to DR17-TR79-2 comply with Trial Rule 79, the amendments to DR17-AR12-3 comply with Administrative Rule 21, and the amendments to DR17-AR15-4 comply with Administrative Rule 15, and, accordingly, should be approved.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by this Court that amended District Rules, DR17-TR79-2, DR17-AR12-3, and DR17-AR15-4, for Judicial District 17, set forth as attachments to this Order, are approved effective November 1, 2025.

Done at Indianapolis, Indiana, on 10/2/2025.

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

Loretta H. Rush
Chief Justice of Indiana

DR17-TR79-00002 APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL JUDGE IN CIVIL CASES.

- A. Eligibility for Special Judge Service.
1. Agreement to Serve. Pursuant to Trial Rule 79(H), the full-time Judicial Officers of Administrative District 17 shall be deemed in agreement to serve as a Special Judge.
 2. Prior Service Excluded. The appointment as Special Judge shall apply unless the appointed Judicial Officer has previously served as Judge or Special Judge in the case, is disqualified by interest or relationship, or is excused from service as a Special Judge by the Indiana Supreme Court.
- B. Appointment of a Special Judge. In the event of the need for the regular, sitting Judicial Officer to recuse herself / himself from a normally assigned case, or should the appointment of a Special Judge through agreement by the Parties pursuant to Trial Rule 79(D) fail, Special Judge appointment shall be made by the Johnson County Court Administrator.
1. Priority Given to Local County Appointments. Special Judge appointments shall be made within the local County, on a rotating basis. Following the appointment of the Special Judge, the Special Judge may request that the case be transferred to the Court of the Special Judge.
 2. District (Outside County) Appointments. In the event that no local Judicial Officer is available, a Special Judge shall be appointed, on a rotating basis, from the available Judicial Officers within the Administrative District.
- C. Acceptance of Appointment.
1. Acceptance Mandatory. Pursuant to Trial Rule 79(H), a person appointed to serve as Special Judge under these rules must accept jurisdiction in the case, unless the appointed Special Judge is disqualified pursuant to the Code of Judicial Conduct, ineligible for service under these rules, or excused from service by the Indiana Supreme Court.
 2. Documentation. An oath or additional evidence of acceptance of jurisdiction is not required.
- D. Supreme Court Certification. In the event that no Judicial Officer in the Administrative District is eligible to serve as a Special Judge, or the regular, sitting Judicial Officer in the court in which the case is pending sets out particular circumstances why appointment under these rules should not be made, then the regular, sitting Judicial Officer shall certify the same to the Indiana Supreme Court for appointment of a Special Judge.
- E. Discontinuation of Special Judge Service. The provisions of T.R. 79(I) apply if a Special Judge ceases to serve following assumption of jurisdiction.
- F. Method for Assignment and Related Records. The Administrative District Executive Committee shall approve:
1. The methodology by which the rotation of Judicial Officers for selection as Special Judge is made; and,
 2. The maintenance of any records related thereto.

DR17-AR12-00003 APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL JUDGE IN CRIMINAL CASES.

- A. Eligibility for Special Judge Service.
1. Available to Serve. Pursuant Administrative Rule 21, the Judicial Officers of Administrative District 17 shall be deemed eligible to serve as a Special Judge.
 2. Prior Service Excluded. The appointment as Special Judge shall apply unless the appointed Judicial Officer has previously served as Judge or Special Judge in the

case, is disqualified by interest or relationship, or is excused from service as a Special Judge by the Indiana Supreme Court.

- B. Appointment of a Special Judge. In the event of the need for the regular, sitting Judicial Officer to recuse herself / himself from a normally assigned case, Special Judge appointment shall be made using the following procedures:
1. Priority Given to Local County Appointments. Pursuant to Criminal Rule 2.4 and Administrative Rule 21, upon granting a change of judge or the disqualification or recusal of a judge in a criminal case, post-conviction proceeding, infraction, or ordinance violation, the case must first be returned to the local Clerk to be assigned in the same manner as the initial judge.
 2. District (Outside County) Appointments. In the event that no local Judicial Officer is available, a Special Judge shall be appointed by the Johnson County Court Administrator, on a rotating basis, from an alternative assignment list of full-time judicial officers from contiguous counties and counties within Administrative District 17 and senior judges. Except for those serving pursuant to Criminal Rule 2.4(E)(6), judges previously assigned to the case are ineligible for reassignment..
- C. Acceptance of Appointment.
1. Acceptance Mandatory. Pursuant to Administrative Rule 21(A), a person appointed to serve as Special Judge under these rules must accept jurisdiction in the case, unless the appointed Special Judge is disqualified pursuant to the Code of Judicial Conduct, ineligible for service under these rules, or excused from service by the Indiana Supreme Court.
 2. Documentation. An oath or additional evidence of acceptance of jurisdiction is not required.
- D. Supreme Court Certification. In the event that no Judicial Officer in the Administrative District is eligible to serve as a Special Judge, or the regular, sitting Judicial Officer in the court in which the case is pending sets out particular circumstances why appointment under these rules should not be made, then the regular, sitting Judicial Officer shall certify the same to the Indiana Supreme Court for appointment of a Special Judge.
- E. Discontinuation of Special Judge Service. The provisions of Administrative Rule 21(D) apply if a Special Judge ceases to serve following assumption of jurisdiction.
- F. Method for Assignment and Related Records. The Administrative District Executive Committee shall approve:
1. The methodology by which the rotation of Judicial Officers for selection as Special Judge is made; and,
 2. The maintenance of any records related thereto.

DR17-AR15-00004 TRANSCRIPT RATE.

Each county within the Administrative District shall amend its local rules, pursuant to Administrative Rule 15 to provide for a consistent rate of \$8.00 per each page of a transcript prepared.