

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES TITLE IV-D POLICY MANUAL	
	Chapter 9: Paternity Establishment	Effective Date: 11/17/17
	Section 3: Determining Jurisdiction and Venue for Judicial Establishment of Paternity	Version: 1 Revision Date: 11/17/17

BACKGROUND

In order for a case to be filed in a particular court, the court must have jurisdiction over the parties and the venue must be proper.

POLICY

The court has personal jurisdiction if the party:

1. Files a paternity action;
2. Joins a paternity action;
3. Is personally served a summons in Indiana;
4. Enters an appearance for purposes other than contesting jurisdiction; or
5. Is subject to the power of the court under any law of Indiana.¹

Each county’s local rules determine the specific court that has subject matter jurisdiction to hear paternity cases.

The proper venue for a paternity action is the county where the child, the mother, or the alleged father resides.²

Change of venue is permissible under Indiana Trial Rule 76.³

Jurisdiction and venue for non-resident parties is governed by the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act.⁴

REFERENCES

- [IC 31-14-3-1](#): Application of Indiana Rules of Civil Procedure
- [IC 31-14-3-2](#): Venue
- [IC 31-18.5-2](#): Jurisdiction (UIFSA)
- [Ind. Trial Rule 4](#): Process
- [Ind. Trial Rule 76](#): Change of venue

¹ IC 31-14-3-1; Ind. Trial Rule 4

² IC 31-14-3-2

³ IC 31-14-3-1; Ind. Trial Rule 76

⁴ IC 31-18.5-2; See Chapter 16: Intergovernmental Case Processing

PROCEDURE

N/A

FORMS AND TOOLS

Chapter 7: Inter-County and Special Prosecutor Case Processing
Chapter 16: Intergovernmental Case Processing

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

N/A

RELATED INFORMATION

N/A

