

District 24 Governance Plan

I. Criminal Rule 2.2 Plan

Each Court and County in the 24th Administrative District shall comply with Rule 2.2 of the Indiana Rules of Criminal Procedure regarding a non-discretionary assignment or filing of criminal cases.

II. Special Judge Plan for Criminal and Civil Cases

Each Court and County in the 24th Administrative District shall comply with Rule 79 of the Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure and Rules 12 and 13 of the Indiana Rules of Criminal Procedure regarding special judge selection.

III. Reassignment of Criminal, Infraction, Ordinance Violation, and Post-Conviction Relief Cases

Except as otherwise required by each county's local rules, when a motion for change of judge has been granted in a criminal, infraction, ordinance violation, or post-conviction relief case or there is a disqualification or recusal, a special judge shall be selected from the following judges in compliance with Rules 12 and 13 of the Indiana Rules of Criminal Procedure and Rule 1 of the Indiana Rules of Procedure for Post-Conviction Remedies:

- (1) Crawford Circuit Court Judge
- (2) Harrison Circuit Court Judge
- (3) Harrison Superior Court Judge
- (4) Orange Circuit Court Judge
- (5) Orange Superior Court Judge
- (6) Washington Circuit Court Judge
- (7) Washington Superior Court Judge
- (8) Senior Judges approved for the requesting Court

The assignment shall take into account the fact that current rules require Special Judges in criminal, infraction, ordinance violation, and post-conviction relief cases serve in a contiguous county.

IV. Appointment of a Special Judge in Criminal, Infraction, Ordinance Violation and Post-Conviction Relief Cases by Indiana Supreme Court

In the event no judge is available for assignment or reassignment of a criminal, infraction, ordinance violation, or post-conviction relief case, such case shall be certified to the Indiana Supreme Court for the appointment of a special judge. In the event the judge presiding in such case concludes that the unique circumstances presented in such proceedings require appointment by the Indiana Supreme Court of a special judge, the presiding judge may ask the Indiana Supreme Court to make that appointment.

V. Appointment of Special Judges in Civil Cases

- A. Section H Appointments. In the event it becomes necessary to appoint a special judge under Section H of Rule 79 of the Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure the judge in that case shall send notice of the need for the appointment of a special judge to the District's administrative judge who shall then make such assignment within five (5) days of receiving said notice.
- B. Method of Assignment. The District's administrative judge shall select special judges from a roster of the available judges in the Administrative District. The assignments shall take into account the number of appointments required for each Court. The intent of the district rules is for each judge to receive one appointment for every case the judge grants a change of judge or recuses or is disqualified from. The administrative judge shall maintain a record of all assignments and shall issue a summary report of the assignments if requested.
- C. Special Considerations. If the Administrative Judge determines that newly selected Judges would benefit from a policy of "exchanging" cases to avoid excessive travel to multiple courts, assignments may be based upon these special temporary circumstances.
- D. Roster of Available Judges. The roster of available judges in Administrative District 24 shall include the following judges and senior judges as set out below:
- (1) Crawford Circuit Court Judge
 - (2) Harrison Circuit Court Judge
 - (3) Harrison Superior Court Judge
 - (4) Orange Circuit Court Judge
 - (5) Orange Superior Court Judge
 - (6) Washington Circuit Court Judge
 - (7) Washington Superior Court Judge
 - (8) Senior Judges approved for the requesting Court
- E. Appointment Order. Upon selecting a special judge, the administrative judge shall prepare an Order of Appointment and forward said Order to the judge before whom the case is pending and the judge before whom the case is pending shall forward a copy of the Order to the special judge and the attorneys of record.
- G. Acceptance of Jurisdiction. The Order of Appointment shall constitute acceptance of jurisdiction by the appointed special judge unless the judge is otherwise disqualified. No special appearance, oath or additional evidence of acceptance shall be required. When one of the sitting Judges of District 24 accepts appointment as Special Judge through a different selection method, such as Supreme Court Appointment, stipulation by the parties, or by striking, that Judge may ask the Appointing Judge to add these appointments to the record of assignments and consider such service in making additional appointments.

H. Form of Order. The Order of Appointment shall be in the following form:

IN THE _____ COURT FOR _____ COUNTY

STATE OF INDIANA

(Caption)

ORDER OF APPOINTMENT

Under the provisions of Trial Rule 79(H) of the Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure or the Indiana Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Honorable _____ of the _____ Court of _____ County is hereby appointed to serve as special judge in the above-captioned case.

SO ORDERED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, _____.

Judge, _____ Court

Assigned this _____ day of _____, _____.

Administrative District #24
Administrative Judge

I. Implementation of Rule. In the event a selected Judge does not accept an appointment to serve as special Judge under the provisions of section (D) of Trial Rule 79 of the Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure, the judge before whom the case is pending shall notify the assignment judge of the need for an appointment of a special judge under this local rule.

J. Certification to Supreme Court. If, under the provisions of this rule, no judge is eligible to serve as special judge in a case, the assignment judge shall notify the judge before whom the case is pending who shall then certify such fact to the Indiana Supreme Court for the appointment of a special Judge.
If the judge before whom the case is pending is of the opinion that the particular circumstances of a case warrants selection of a special judge by the Indiana Supreme Court, said judge shall certify such facts to the Indiana Supreme Court for the appointment of a special judge. Under such circumstance this Rule shall not be implemented unless the Indiana Supreme Court declines to appoint a special Judge.

VI. Leadership Selection Process

Leadership of the 24th Administrative District shall be by an Administrative Judge selected by the sitting judges of the Circuit and Superior Courts of the 24th Administrative District in person, by mail, or by electronic vote. The Administrative Judge's term shall be for two (2) years ending on December 31 of the second year of the term or thereafter upon the selection of a replacement. The sitting judges of the 24th Administrative District may select a different sitting judge from the 24th Administrative District to serve on the Board of Directors of the Judicial Conference of Indiana for the term determined by the Board of Directors of the Judicial Conference of Indiana. Selection shall be in person, by mail, or by electronic vote.

VII. Number of Meetings Per Year

The sitting judges of the 24th Administrative District shall hold at least one (1) district meeting per year in a time, place, and manner determined by the Administrative Judge of the District.

VIII. District Activities

Currently, Hoosier Hills PACT, a regional community corrections agency, serves every county within the district.

IX. Plan Approval

The 24th Administrative District Plan or any changes shall be approved by seventy-five (75) percent (%) of the judges of the District.