

What the Judges Want You to Know About Family Law Cases in Tippecanoe County, Indiana



Thomas H. Busch, Judge
Circuit Court

Randy J. Williams, Judge
Superior Court

Steven P. Meyer, Judge
Superior Court No. 2

Faith A. Graham, Judge
Superior Court No. 3

Laura W. Zeman, Judge
Superior Court No. 4

Sean M. Persin, Judge
Superior Court No. 5

Michael A. Morrissey, Judge
Superior Court No. 6

Tricia L. Thompson, Magistrate
Superior Court No. 3

Daniel J. Moore, Magistrate

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The Courts of Tippecanoe County recognize that conflict in family law cases is destructive and often dangerous. Litigating family law cases does not end or resolve the conflict, but rather, it heightens the conflict. The cooperative model for handling family law cases has been implemented to minimize conflict and to foster healthy and child-sensitive functioning of families.

Actions taken in the earliest stages of the parents' separation are critical. Whether those actions are helpful or destructive will define the case before the Court and the future functioning of the family. Until the case is filed, the Courts have no involvement. However, at such early stages, parents and attorneys can begin the cooperative process and can begin to work toward resolution without Court involvement.

Children whose parents live apart have special needs above and beyond those of other children with intact families. Those special needs include the need for frequent, meaningful, and continuing contact with both parents. The Courts will expect separated and divorced parents, wherever safely possible, to work together to support their children's best possible relationships with each parent.

The Judges of Tippecanoe County are confident that the cooperative model for handling family law cases will help families move forward with their lives in a civil and respectful manner.

This pamphlet is designed to highlight certain sections of the Tippecanoe County Rules of Family Law. All of the rules are important and will be enforced by the Court.

1. Both parents must complete and exchange **Financial Declaration Forms** with all required attachments.

Forms can be located in the Clerk's office and on the county website (www.tippecanoe.in.gov/clerk).

2. In all family law cases where the parents have children together under the age of 18, both parents must complete certain **website work** within 30 days of initial filing and must file a certificate of completion with the Court.

The website for divorce cases is www.UpToParents.org.

The website for paternity cases is www.ProudToParent.org.

3. In all family law cases where the parents have children together under the age of 18, both parents must complete a **co-parenting class** called Workshop for Parents and must file a certificate of completion with the Court.

The dates and times of co-parenting classes are posted in the Court offices, the Clerk's office, and on the county website (www.tippecanoe.in.gov/clerk).

4. Unless parents have signed an agreed parenting plan, both parents must complete and exchange written **Parenting Plan Proposals**.

Forms can be located in the Clerk's office and on the county website (www.tippecanoe.in.gov/clerk).

5. In family law cases, parents either **win together** or **lose together**.

The Judges of Tippecanoe County expect courtesy and cooperation. Parents who are courteous with each other and cooperate instead of arguing about the past can use their financial and emotional resources to build a better future for themselves and their children.

Divorces in Indiana are no-fault and the Judges of Tippecanoe County are not impressed by attempts to find fault or blame each other.

Parents and/or Attorneys must consult with each other to attempt to resolve any disagreements before filing motions with the Court.

6. Parents should read the Tippecanoe County Rules of Family Law and the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines.

The Tippecanoe County Rules of Family Law and the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines can be located in the Clerk's office and on the county website (www.tippecanoe.in.gov/clerk).

PARENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BRING THEIR FINANCIAL DECLARATION FORMS, PARENTING PLAN PROPOSALS, AND WEBSITE WORK COMMITMENTS TO ALL HEARINGS, MEDIATION SESSIONS, AND SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS.

View-Download Forms and Information at:

www.tippecanoe.in.gov/clerk

select *Rules of Family Law*