

# *Children's Law Center of Indiana*



## **Impact of Paternity, Dissolution, and Guardianship Law on Children's Safety in Permanency Planning<sup>1</sup>**

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### **I. Introduction**

When reunification is the permanency plan, it is very important to consider the child's long term safety needs after the CHINS case is closed. It is necessary to plan for the reality that the child will likely be spending time with each parent after reunification. If the child's parents are living apart, paternity or dissolution of marriage custody orders and parenting time (visitation) orders will dictate the type and amount of access each parent has to the child. The reunification service provider should become knowledgeable about the child's paternity or dissolution court orders in crafting a safe plan for reunification. Awareness of Indiana legal standards to establish and modify custody or parenting time will also help the reunification provider plan for safe reunification. The reunification provider should also be familiar with resources which parents can use to establish paternity and establish or modify court orders on custody and parenting time. If guardianship or custody by a person who is not the

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child's parent is the child's permanency plan, the reunification provider should understand Indiana legal standards on terminating guardianship/third party custodianship.

Remember that court orders from the CHINS case (such as not allowing contact with an abuse perpetrator or requiring supervised visitation) cannot be legally enforced after the CHINS case is closed. The dissolution, paternity, or guardianship court has jurisdiction to issue a similar order, but the parent or guardian/custodian must request and enforce the order. After the CHINS case is closed, parents, guardians and third party custodians will need to pay for legal services, access pro bono legal providers, or represent themselves in court.

## **II. Paternity and Dissolution of Marriage Proceedings**

### **A. Court Jurisdiction**

Jurisdiction may be defined as the power to make legally valid court orders which may be enforced by the court through contempt proceedings. The juvenile court has exclusive original jurisdiction over proceedings in which a child is alleged to be a CHINS. IC 31-30-1-1(1). After the CHINS petition is filed, and as long as the CHINS case is open, only the juvenile court orders apply regarding the child's placement, visitation, contact, counseling, or other issues. If the dissolution of marriage or paternity court has issued orders regarding the child's custody, visitation, or other issues, the juvenile court's orders supersede the orders of the other courts while the CHINS case is open. A dissolution court or a paternity court has concurrent original jurisdiction with the juvenile court for the purpose of custody modification, but the dissolution or paternity court's order modifying custody is effective only when the juvenile court with jurisdiction over the CHINS case either enters an order approving the custody modification or terminates the CHINS proceeding. IC 31-30-1-12; IC 31-30-1-13.

The jurisdiction of the dissolution court and paternity court ends when the child reaches the age of 21, unless the child is emancipated or incapacitated. A guardianship ordered by a court with probate jurisdiction ends by operation of law when the child reaches the age of 18. IC 29-3-12-1. A guardianship ordered by a juvenile court as part of a permanency plan may extend until the child reaches the age of 19 if the child is a full-time student in a secondary school or the equivalent level of vocational or career and technical education. IC 31-30-2-1.

## B. Establishing Paternity

DNA testing ordered in the CHINS case establishes the fact of biological paternity, but does not establish a paternity case file for the purpose of obtaining ongoing child support, custody, or visitation orders after the CHINS case is closed. Paternity may be established by a paternity affidavit or by filing a paternity case in court.

### 1. The Paternity Affidavit

As of July 1, 1995, a properly executed paternity affidavit does not require court action to establish paternity. A paternity affidavit is signed by both the mother and the father. It can be signed by the parents at the hospital where the child is born within 72 hours of the birth or at the local health department any time before “the child has reached the age of emancipation.” IC 16-37-2-2.1(c). The addresses of the county health department offices are online at <http://www.in.gov/isdh/23926.htm>. IC 16-37-2-2.1(b) provides that, immediately before or after the birth of a child born out of wedlock, “a person who attends or plans to attend the birth, including personnel of all public or private birthing hospitals, shall” provide an opportunity for the child’s mother and a man who reasonably appears to be the child’s biological

father to execute an affidavit acknowledging the paternity of the child. IC 16-37-2-1 defines a “person in attendance at a live birth” as (1) a licensed attending physician; (2) an attending midwife or nurse midwife; (3) another individual who: (A) holds a license of the type designated by the governing board of a hospital, after consultation with the hospital’s medical staff, to attend births at the hospital; and (B) is in attendance at the birth.

IC 16-37-2-2 requires “a person in attendance at a live birth” to, among other things, file any paternity affidavit executed under IC 16-37-2-2.1(c)(1) with the local health officer not more than five days after the child’s birth.

Including the father’s name on the birth certificate of a child born out of wedlock does not legally establish paternity unless a paternity affidavit is filed also. Parents who say the father “signed the birth certificate” likely mean that a paternity affidavit was signed. The child born out of wedlock will be recorded in official birth records under the mother’s name or as directed in a properly executed paternity affidavit. IC 16-37-2-13. If a paternity affidavit is later executed at the local health department office, the office will correct the local record of birth by adding the name of the father to the local birth record and will inform the state office. IC 16-37-2-14. “If the parents of a child born out of wedlock in Indiana later marry, the child shall legally take the last name of the father.” IC 16-37-2-15. If the man claiming to be the child’s biological father marries the mother of a child born out of wedlock, the man and the mother may produce proof of the marriage and execute a paternity affidavit. IC 16-37-2-16.

A paternity affidavit must be executed on a form provided by the state health department. IC 16-37-2-2.1(c). It must contain or have attached the following: (1) the mother’s sworn statement asserting that the man who reasonably appears to be the child’s biological father is the child’s biological father; (2) a statement by the person identified by the mother to be the father

in which he attests to a belief that he is the child's biological father;  
(3) written information furnished by the child support bureau of the Department of Child Services (DCS) which explains the effect of an executed paternity affidavit and the availability of child support enforcement services; and (4) the social security number of each parent. IC 16-37-2-2.1(e). IC 16-37-2-2.1(f), amended effective 7/1/10, adds the following requirements which must be included in the paternity affidavit:

1. A statement that, if the mother and the man who believes he is the child's biological father (affiant father) check a box on the affidavit and sign on signature lines below the box, the mother and affiant father agree to share joint legal custody of the child.
2. A statement that, if the mother and affiant father do not agree to share joint legal custody, the mother has sole legal custody of the child unless another determination is made by a court in a proceeding under IC 31-14 (paternity proceeding).
3. A statement that, if the mother and affiant father agree to share joint legal custody (on the paternity affidavit), the mother has primary physical custody of the child unless another determination is made by a court in a proceeding under IC 31-14 (paternity proceeding).
4. A statement that, if the mother and affiant father agree to share joint legal custody (on the paternity affidavit), the agreement to share joint legal custody is void unless the result of a genetic test performed by an accredited laboratory indicates that the affiant father is the biological father of the child and the result of genetic test is submitted to a local health officer not later than 60 days after the child's birth.
5. A statement with signature lines that affirms that a mother or an affiant father who is under the age of eighteen has had an opportunity to consult with an

adult chosen by the mother or affiant father regarding the contents of the paternity affidavit before signing the affidavit.

It is a Class A misdemeanor for a woman to “knowingly or intentionally falsely [name] a man as the child’s biological father under this section.” IC 16-37-2-2.1(g).

The paternity affidavit law was amended effective 7/1/10. IC 16-37-2-2.1(o) provides that if the mother and affiant father check the joint legal custody box and sign where indicated for joint legal custody, the mother and affiant father shall share joint legal custody and have equal access to the child’s school and medical records. An action to establish custody or parenting time of a party who has agreed to share joint legal custody on the paternity affidavit shall be tried de novo. IC 16-37-2-2.1(q) provides that an agreement to share joint legal custody on the paternity affidavit is void if either of the following applies: (1) a genetic test performed by an accredited laboratory indicates that the affiant father is not the child’s biological father; or (2) the affiant father fails to submit to a local health officer within 60 days the result of a genetic test performed by an accredited laboratory that indicates the affiant father is the child’s biological father. IC 16-37-2-2.1(p) provides that, before a paternity affidavit is signed, it must be presented separately to the mother and the man who reasonably appears to be the child’s biological father so that each party may review the affidavit alone and without the presence of the other party. A signed paternity affidavit is voidable if this requirement is not satisfied. IC 16-37-2-2.1(r) provides that the mother or the affiant father must have an opportunity to consult with any adult chosen by the mother or affiant father if the mother or affiant father is under the age of eighteen. The consultation regarding the contents of the paternity affidavit must take place before the paternity affidavit is signed.

A signed paternity affidavit is voidable if the mother or affiant father does not have the opportunity to consult with a chosen adult. The new paternity affidavit law applies to affidavits signed after 7/1/10.

If the paternity affidavit was signed after July 1, 2006, the law gives the affiant father “reasonable parenting time rights.” If the paternity affidavit was signed after July 1, 2010, the affiant father has parenting time according to the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines. (See II. F for more information on the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines.) Indiana law provides that the mother of a child born out of wedlock has sole legal custody of the child (except for the joint/legal custody option discussed above) and unless a statute or court order provides otherwise. IC 31-14-13-1.

## 2. Paternity Court Proceedings

If an unwed father or a third party should have custody of the child or if father’s or mother’s parenting time should be restricted, a paternity case must be filed in court under a paternity cause number (JP) which is separate from the CHINS case. The paternity court can then have jurisdiction to make court orders to keep the child safe after the CHINS case is closed.

A paternity action may be filed by:

- the mother or expectant mother, alone or jointly with the alleged father;
- a man alleging he is the biological father of a child or of an unborn child, alone or jointly with the mother;
- a child;
- the DCS if the mother, or the person with whom the child resides, has executed an assignment of support rights under Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act; or
- the prosecuting attorney,

- who shall file and represent the child upon the request of the above named parties, or
- who may file if the child is or is alleged to be a CHINS and is under the supervision of DCS as the result of a court ordered out-of-home placement.

IC 31-14-4-1. A person less than eighteen years of age may file a paternity petition if competent except for age; if incompetent, the person may file through the person's guardian, guardian ad litem, or next friend. IC 31-14-5-2(a). A child may file a paternity petition at any time before the child reaches 20 years of age. IC 31-14-5-2(b). IC 31-34-15-6 provides that, when a child who was born out of wedlock is, or is alleged to be, a CHINS, and is under the supervision of DCS as a result of a court ordered out-of-home placement, DCS shall refer the child's case to the local prosecuting attorney's office for the mandatory filing of a paternity action if the identity of the alleged father is known and if DCS reasonably believes that establishing paternity would be beneficial to the child. DCS shall sign the paternity petition as the child's next friend.

IC 31-14-5-1 provides that the paternity petition shall be verified and captioned "In the Matter of the Paternity of \_\_\_\_." The mother, child, and each person alleged to be the father are necessary parties to the paternity action. IC 31-14-5-6. The prosecuting attorney's office shall on the request of a mother, putative father, or child, file a paternity action and represent the child in that action. IC 31-14-4-2. The prosecuting attorney's role is to establish the fact of paternity, but the prosecuting attorney does not provide representation for a person to obtain custody or parenting time. The prosecuting attorney's office receives federal reimbursement for establishing paternity in specific situations.

Genetic testing is not automatically ordered by the court in a paternity case. If requested by a legal party to the case, the court shall order all of the parties to a paternity action to undergo genetic testing by a qualified expert. IC 31-14-6-1. If the state or county pays the initial costs of testing, those costs may be recovered from the biological parent. IC 31-14-16-4. Child support, custody, and parenting time (visitation) shall be ordered by the court, after hearing evidence, when the fact of biological fatherhood has been legally established. See II. D. and E. for information on the legal standards for determining and modifying custody. See II. F. for information on parenting time.

#### C. Dissolution of Marriage

A dissolution of marriage (divorce) can be granted if one spouse claims that the marriage is irretrievably broken. Either spouse can file for dissolution if the spouse who files has lived in Indiana for six months and in the county for three months just before filing the petition. The court will schedule a preliminary hearing and make temporary orders on custody, parenting time, child support, and payment of expenses such as mortgage and utilities. The parties can make a settlement agreement, which is presented to the court for approval, instead of proceeding to final hearing. If a settlement cannot be made, the court will hear evidence and make orders regarding custody, parenting time, child support, and division of property. The parties need to return to dissolution court to modify custody, parenting time and child support.

#### D. Legal Standards for Custody Determination

The paternity or dissolution court can award sole custody to a parent, joint custody with one parent having primary physical custody, joint custody with the parents sharing joint physical custody (usually according to a written schedule), or if the evidence so indicates, custody to third parties such as grandparents. See III.

on Guardianship/Third Party Custodianship. The sole custodian makes decisions regarding the child's education, health care, religion, child care provider, and other aspects of the child's daily life. Joint custodians share decision making on the child's education, health care, and religion. If one of the parents has primary physical custody, the custodian makes many of the day-to-day decisions, but must share information with and seek input from the other parent on the other, more significant decisions. Indiana law provides that, in determining joint custody, the court shall consider whether the parents have agreed to joint custody, the fitness of the parents awarded joint custody, and whether the parents are willing and able to communicate and cooperate in advancing the child's welfare. IC 31-17-2-15 (dissolution); IC 31-14-13-2.3 (paternity).

If the parties do not agree on who should have custody, the dissolution or paternity court shall determine custody in accordance with the best interests of the child and without a presumption favoring either parent. The factors which the court shall consider include the following:

- (1) The age and sex of the child.
- (2) The wishes of the child's parent or parents.
- (3) The wishes of the child, with more consideration given to the child's wishes if the child is at least fourteen (14) years of age.
- (4) The interaction and interrelationship of the child with:
  - (A) the child's parent or parents;
  - (B) the child's sibling; and
  - (C) any other person who may significantly affect the child's best interests.
- (5) The child's adjustment to the child's:
  - (A) home;
  - (B) school; and
  - (C) community.
- (6) The mental and physical health of all individuals involved.

- (7) Evidence of a pattern of domestic or family violence by either parent.
- (8) Evidence that the child has been cared for by a de facto custodian, and if the evidence is sufficient, the court shall consider the factors described in section 8.5(b) of this chapter.

IC 31-17-2-8 (dissolution); IC 31-14-13-2 (paternity).

#### E. Legal Standards for Custody Modification

After the dissolution or paternity court has entered its “final” custody order or approved the parties’ custody agreement, it is not easy to modify (change) custody from one parent to the other parent unless the parents agree to the modification. A dissolution or paternity court may not modify a child custody order unless: (1) the modification is in the best interests of the child; and (2) there is a substantial change in one or more of the factors which the court may consider in making a custody determination. (See II. D. for the custody factors.) IC 31-17-2-21 (dissolution); IC 31-14-13-6 (paternity). In addition, the court shall not hear evidence on a matter occurring before the last custody proceeding unless the matter relates to a change in the best interest factors. IC 31-7-2-21 (dissolution); IC 31-14-13-9 (paternity). Case law from the Indiana Supreme Court and Court of Appeals tends to favor stability of custody, and custody may not be modified merely on the basis of the child’s wishes or the improvements made by one of the parents. Of course, the parents can agree to modify custody and submit an agreement modifying custody to the dissolution or paternity court for the court’s approval. Indiana has no law which allows a child to choose his custodian at a certain age, but the dissolution or paternity court judge may speak to the child to ascertain the child’s wishes. IC 31-17-2-9 (dissolution); IC 31-14-13-3 (paternity). The court may permit the parents’ attorneys to be present for the interview. The dissolution or paternity court may also appoint a Guardian ad Litem or Court Appointed Special Advocate to

conduct an investigation, interview the child, parents, and others, write a report which is filed with the court, and testify if necessary. IC 31-17-6-1 (dissolution); IC 31-32-3-1 (paternity). See III. A. for information on modifying custody from a parent to a third party such as a grandparent or aunt. The legal standards are different and more stringent to modify custody to a third party if the parents do not agree to the modification.

#### F. Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines

In general, Indiana law states that a parent in dissolution or paternity case who is not granted custody of a child is entitled to “reasonable parenting time rights.” IC 31-17-4-1 (dissolution); IC 31-14-14-1 (paternity). The Indiana Supreme Court established the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines in March 2001. The Guidelines establish reasonable parenting time rights in Indiana.

The Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines are based on the developmental stages of children and were developed by the Domestic Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana. The Guidelines may be found at [www.in.gov/judiciary](http://www.in.gov/judiciary) (click on “Citizens”) and represent a minimum time that a parent should have to maintain frequent, meaningful, and continuing contact with a child.

The Scope of Application of the Guidelines states that the Guidelines are applicable to all custody situations, including paternity cases and cases involving joint legal custody where one parent has primary physical custody, but they are “not applicable to situations involving family violence, substance abuse, risk of flight with a child, or any other circumstances the court reasonably believes endanger the child’s physical health or safety, or significantly impair the child’s emotional development.” The Scope section further states that there is a “presumption that the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines are applicable in all

cases covered by these guidelines” and “deviation from these Guidelines by either the parties or the court must be accompanied by a written explanation indicating why the deviation is necessary or appropriate in the case.” The Guidelines provide for significant amounts of unsupervised parenting time for the noncustodial parent, including overnight parenting time. Children age three years and older will have alternating weekend parenting time from Friday at 6:00 p.m. until Sunday at 6:00 p.m. plus a four hour midweek time with their noncustodial parent. The Guidelines also require parents to alternate holidays with the child. Holidays include a two week long winter break, spring break and one-half of the child’s summer vacation from school.

The dissolution or paternity court is not required to order parenting time for the noncustodial parent in accordance with the Guidelines. The court may restrict or suspend parenting time or require supervised parenting time if the court finds, after a hearing, that parenting time by the noncustodial parent would endanger the child’s physical health or significantly impair the child’s emotional development. IC 31-17-4-1 (dissolution); IC 31-14-14-1 (paternity). If the noncustodial parent has been convicted of a crime involving domestic or family violence that was witnessed or heard by the noncustodial parent’s child, there is a rebuttable presumption that the court shall order the child’s parenting time with the noncustodial parent to be supervised for at least one year and not more than two years immediately following the crime. IC 31-17-2-8.3 (dissolution); IC 31-14-5 (paternity). In paternity cases, there is a rebuttable presumption that a parent who has been convicted of child molesting or child exploitation must have supervised visitation with his child. IC 31-14-14-1. If problems arise with parenting time, the parties can request a court hearing and present evidence on why the parenting time order should be changed. The court may modify parenting time whenever modification of parenting time would serve the child’s best interests. IC 31-17-4-2 (dissolution); IC 31-14-14-2 (paternity). The court

may interview the child to assist the court in determining the child's perception of whether parenting time might endanger the child's physical health or significantly impair the child's emotional development. IC 31-17-4-1 (dissolution); IC 31-14-14-1 (paternity). The court may permit the parents' attorneys to be present for the interview.

In considering custody modification as the permanency plan for a child, it is important to evaluate the child's safety needs in determining parenting time recommendations for the noncustodial parent. In CHINS proceedings, the history of parental abuse or neglect will likely preclude Guideline parenting time for the parent from whom the child was removed. It is also important to evaluate the custodial parent's ability and willingness to follow dissolution or paternity court parenting time orders and to seek court orders that will keep the child safe. Indiana law, IC 31-7-2-11(a), requires the dissolution court to appoint a temporary conditional custodian for the child if the court: (1) requires supervision during the noncustodial parent's parenting time; or (2) suspends the noncustodial parent's parenting time privileges. IC 31-7-2-11(b) states that a temporary conditional custodian named by the court under this section receives temporary custody of a child upon the death of the child's custodial parent. The temporary custodian may petition the court having probate jurisdiction over the estate of the child's custodial parent for an order under IC 29-3-3-6 naming the temporary custodian as the temporary guardian of the child pursuant to IC 31-17-2-11(c). Paternity courts can enter similar orders, although they are not required to do so by statute.

### III. Guardianship and Third Party Custodianship

#### A. Legal Standards for Establishing Guardianship/Third Party Custodianship

Parents may agree to the appointment of a guardian or third party custodian as the permanency plan for the child. If parents do not agree, the legal standards are drawn from published decisions of the Indiana Supreme and Appellate courts. In general, the higher Courts have indicated the following: (1) the person who wants to be appointed guardian or third party custodian has the legal burden of proving why the guardianship or third party custodianship should be granted; (2) the person who wants to be appointed guardian or third party custodian must prove the case by the high civil standard of “clear and convincing evidence,” which is the same standard for involuntary termination of the parent-child relationship or an adoption without parental consent; (3) there is a presumption that a child should live with a natural parent, but this presumption may be rebutted; (4) evidence establishing the parent’s unfitness or long acquiescence in leaving the child with the guardian or third party custodian or evidence demonstrating the strong emotional bond between the child and the guardian/third party custodian is important, but the court is not limited to these criteria; (5) the trial court must be convinced that the child’s best interests are substantially and significantly served by placement with another person.

#### B. Visitation for Parents

The court which appoints the guardian/third party custodian may order specific visitation to be provided to the parents. Because of the reasons for the necessity of the guardianship/custodianship, the court needs to balance the parents’ rights to visitation against the minor’s right to safety and stability. The type and amount of visitation which the proposed guardian/custodian should provide would best be ordered by the court based on the circumstances of the particular case. Sometimes inclusion in a court order of a detailed visitation plan, which

considers the reasons why the guardianship/custodianship was necessary, would be in the best interest of the children. When guardianship/custodianship is the CHINS permanency plan, the type and amount of visitation should be carefully considered by the department of child services and fully discussed with the guardian/custodian. Optimally, the guardianship/custodianship appointment order should include specific guidelines for parental visitation which are tailored to the child's need for protection and the parents' situation. The permanency planning provider should also assess the guardian's/custodian's ability, willingness, and resources to enforce court ordered visitation.

- C. Legal Standards for Terminating Guardianship/Third Party Custodianship
- Guardianship law provides that a guardianship terminates when the child reaches the age of eighteen. IC 29-3-12-1. A guardianship established in juvenile court may be extended until the child reaches the age of nineteen years if the child at the age of eighteen is a full-time student in a secondary school or the equivalent level of vocational or career and technical education. IC 31-30-2-1. The court may also terminate a guardianship if it is no longer necessary for any other reason. IC 29-3-12-1. A guardian may ask the court's permission to resign as guardian, and the court may then appoint a successor guardian. IC 29-3-12-4. If a parent asks the court to terminate the guardianship/third party custodianship, the guardian/custodian must prove to the court by clear and convincing evidence why the guardianship/custodianship should be continued. There is a rebuttable presumption that the child should be placed with a parent. See III. A. for additional information on case law standards to appoint a guardian or custodian. The permanency planning provider should be sure the guardian/custodian has the willingness to advocate for continuation of the guardianship/custodianship and access to needed resources to accomplish this goal.

## IV. Resources for Families

### A. Civil Protective Orders

A parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian could seek a civil protective order to protect the child from a family or household member if the person or the child is or has been a victim of domestic or family violence. IC 34-26-5-2. After hearing evidence, the court may specify arrangements for parenting time and require supervised parenting time or deny parenting time. IC 34-26-5-9. A person does not need an attorney to seek a protective order, and court staff or domestic violence agency staff may assist the person in completing needed documents to request a protective order. If a dissolution or paternity case has been filed, the protective order court will transfer the protective order case to the dissolution or paternity court. The order for protection is valid for two years, unless modified by the protective order court or another court with jurisdiction over the parties. IC 34-26-5-9. The form for a Petition for an Order for Protection and Request for a Hearing—filed on behalf of a child may be found at [www.in.gov/judiciary/forms/po](http://www.in.gov/judiciary/forms/po).

### B. Access to Pro Bono Attorney

The Indiana Pro Bono Commission of the Indiana Supreme Court lists pro bono providers who provide legal representation to eligible people who lack funds to pay a private attorney. Indiana is divided into fourteen pro bono districts. The names and telephone numbers for pro bono providers may be accessed through the Indiana Supreme Court website at [www.in.gov/judiciary](http://www.in.gov/judiciary). Click on “Citizens” on the left-hand side of the Indiana Supreme Court home page, then on “Pro Bono Legal Services.” Unfortunately, the pro bono legal providers have limited resources and cannot accept every eligible person who applies to them for services.

### C. Help for People Who are Representing Themselves

Some Indiana counties have a law library located in the county courthouse which can be used by members of the public to research Indiana laws and legal forms. Some public libraries have copies of Indiana statutes, and the reference librarian can help the public find statutes. All of Indiana's statutes can be found on the legislative website, [www.in.gov/legislative](http://www.in.gov/legislative). Scroll down to the "Laws" bar on the Indiana General Assembly home page and click on "Constitution & Statutes" and then click on Indiana Code. The 36 named Titles of Indiana law can then be accessed by article number and name and chapter number and name.

People who are representing themselves in court may view informational videos on self-representation on the Indiana Supreme Court website. Click on "Citizens" on the left-hand side of the home page, [www.in.gov/judiciary](http://www.in.gov/judiciary), then scroll down and click on "Representing Yourself in Court," to find the "Self Service Legal Center," with the video, court forms, and other information, including Spanish language information.