

The Judges of Tippecanoe County recognize that conflict in family law cases is destructive and often dangerous. Court hearings in family law cases do not end conflict, but rather, increase conflict. The “Cooperative Model” for handling family law cases is designed to decrease conflict, to improve family functioning.

Actions in the earliest stages of divorce, separation, or disagreements are critical. Those actions may be helpful or destructive and will define future family functioning. Parents and attorneys must begin the cooperative process before Court involvement.

Children whose parents live apart have special needs, including the need for frequent, meaningful, and continuing contact with both parents. When safely possible, parents are expected to work together to support their children’s best possible relationship 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.

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



Sean M. Persin, 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
Kristen E. McVey, Judge; Superior Court No. 5
Michael A. Morrissey, Judge; Superior Court No. 6
Daniel J. Moore, Magistrate
Tricia L. Thompson, Juvenile Magistrate
Matthew D. Boulac, Title IV-D Commissioner

Tippecanoe County Courthouse
301 Main Street
Lafayette, IN 47901
www.tippecanoe.in.gov

State & Local Family Law Rules have been created to encourage cooperation and exchange of information. Below are highlights of Rule sections that will be enforced by the Court.

1. **Financial Declaration Forms**. Each party must *complete* and *exchange* a **Financial Declaration Form** with all required attachments. Do not file form with the Court.

Forms are located in the Clerk's office and at
www.tippecanoe.in.gov/202/clerk (select Rules of Family Law)

2. **Parents With Children Under 18 Years**. Where parents have children together under the age of 18, each parent must complete the following and file written proof of completion with the Court:

- a. **Parenting Website**. Each parent must complete **website work** within 30 days of initial filing. Forms can be found at:

www.UpToParents.org (divorce cases)
www.ProudToParent.org (paternity cases)

- b. **Divorcing Parent Workshop**. Each parent must attend a **co-parenting class**. Parents do not need to attend together. Dates and times of classes are posted in Court offices, Clerk's Office and at:

www.tippecanoe.in.gov/202/clerk
(select Rules of Family Law)

- c. **Parent Affirmation**. Unless parents have signed an agreed parenting plan, each parent must *complete* and *exchange* a written **Parenting Plan Proposal**. Forms can be found at:

www.tippecanoe.in.gov/202/clerk
(select Rules of Family Law)

3. **Child Support Worksheet for Children Under 19 Years**. Parents must exchange income information and prepare and file a **Child Support Worksheet**. Information and forms can be found at:

www.in.gov/judiciary/2625.htm

4. **Local Rules of Family Law**. Parties should read the Tippecanoe County Rules of Family Law and the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines. View or Download Forms and Information at:

www.tippecanoe.in.gov/202/clerk (select Rules of Family Law)
<https://secure.in.gov/judiciary/rules/parenting/parenting.pdf>.

Parties and/or Attorneys must consult with each other to attempt to resolve any disagreements before filing motions with the Court. If filing motions with the Court, a Party must state in writing that he or she has consulted the other party prior to filing. (See Local Rule 79FL 009).

The Judges of Tippecanoe County expect courtesy and cooperation. Parties 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/or their children.

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

5. **Parents are required to bring the following to all hearings, mediation sessions, and settlement discussions:**

- 1) **Financial Declaration Forms,**
- 2) **Website & Workshop Completion Certificates,**
- 3) **Child Support Worksheets, and**
- 4) **Parenting Plan Proposals**