

Appendix G

JUDGES' NOTICE TO PARENTS IN PATERNITY CASES

We, the Judges and Magistrates of Tippecanoe County, share the following information so that you will know of our commitment to the best interests of children. *Please read this information carefully, as we expect you and all other persons involved in your case to be partners in serving those best interests.*

- 1. If either of you question whether or not the man named as the father in this case is the father, and the man named as the father has not signed a paternity affidavit admitting paternity of the child at issue,** the Court will order genetic testing at the initial hearing to establish paternity. If the man named as father is found not to be the father by genetic testing, the case will be dismissed.

- 2. If paternity is established,** whether by agreement or otherwise, or following genetic testing, the Local Rules of the Circuit and Superior Court of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, require you to do the following:
 - A. Complete the work on www.ProudToParent.org** and furnish the Court with a certification that you have done so.

 - B. Complete and exchange Financial Declaration Forms with all required attachments.**

- 3. In addition, if paternity is established,** whether by agreement or otherwise, or following genetic testing, you will be expected to do the following:
 - A. Devise a Parenting Plan for your children.** A Parenting Plan consists of the decision making and living and financial arrangements that will serve to nurture and protect your children as the years progress. A plan which is worked out between the parents to fit the needs of their children and family is almost always best. You should review the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines. The Court considers those Guidelines to be the **minimum** parenting time for each parent to have frequent, meaningful, and continuing contact with their children. If you fail to devise a successful Parenting Plan for your children, this Court may require you to attend and complete, at your own expense, a co-parenting class.

 - B. Read the Tippecanoe County Rules of Family Law and the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines** for additional important information on the Court's expectation that everyone involved in your case will be a partner in:

ensuring safety;
reducing conflict;
building cooperation; and,
protecting the best interests of all family members, especially all children.