

STATE OF INDIANA – COUNTY OF HOWARD
IN THE HOWARD CIRCUIT AND SUPERIOR COURTS

Notice of Proposed Local Rule Amendments

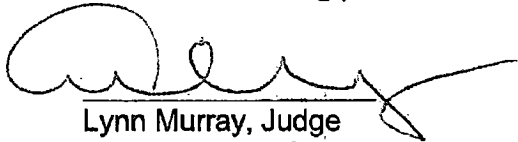
August 12, 2026

In accordance with Trial Rule 81 of the Indiana Trial Rules, the Howard Circuit and Superior Courts hereby give notice to the bar and the public that the Courts propose to amend the Local Rules pertaining to the assignment of civil case filings (LR34-ARI-2), specifically those civil cases described as "Other Civil Filings" in section D. After October 1, 2026, civil filings not otherwise distributed to the Courts pursuant to sections A, B, and C, shall be distributed by random selection using a method which results in ten percent (10%) filed in Howard Circuit Court; twenty-eight percent (28%) filed in Howard Superior Court I; twenty-eight percent (28%) filed in Howard Superior Court II, and thirty-four percent (34%) filed in Howard Superior Court 4. The proposed amendment changes the distribution of miscellaneous civil case filings in order to improve the equitable workload distribution among the Howard County Courts. The amended rule is to be applicable to new civil case filings effective October 1, 2026.

All new text is shown by underlining and deleted text is shown ~~strikethrough~~.

Notice has been given to the public by posting in the Office of the Howard County Clerk and Clerk's website and on the Indiana Judiciary webpage for Local Rules (<https://www.ingov/courts/publications/local-rules/>), and by furnishing a copy to the officers of the Howard County Bar Association. Comments may be made beginning on Monday August 17, 2026 and continuing up to and including Friday, September 18, 2026, such comments being directed to: Hon. Lynn Murray, Judge of the Howard Circuit Court, Attn: Public Comment on Local Rules, Howard County Courthouse, 104 N. Buckeye Street, Rm 310, Kokomo, IN 46901; or to lynn.murray@howardcountyin.gov.

This notice is being provided on behalf of the Judges and Magistrate of Howard County.



Lynn Murray, Judge
Howard Circuit Court

LR34-ARI-2
ASSIGNMENT OF CASE FILINGS

A. HOWARD CIRCUIT COURT: All juvenile matters, paternity cases, adoptions, county tax sale matters, and other cases required by law to be filed in the Howard Circuit Court shall be filed in the Howard Circuit Court.

B. HOWARD SUPERIOR COURTS II AND IV: Mental health matters shall be filed in the Howard Superior Court II or the Howard Superior Court IV. The court of filing shall be determined by random selection made by the Clerk.

C. HOWARD SUPERIOR COURT III: Small Claims and Petitions for Specialized Driving Privileges pursuant to IC 9-30-16 shall be filed in the Howard Superior Court III. The Court shall also maintain a Plenary Docket for the purpose of accepting transfer cases. This shall include any civil case transferred from the other Howard County Courts or cases in which the Judge of Howard Superior Court III has been selected as a special judge pursuant to Sections (D)(H) or (K) of Trial Rule 79. All small claims which are transferred to the Plenary Docket as a result of a jury request or because a party seeks to pursue a claim that exceeds the jurisdictional amount allowed shall be transferred to the Plenary Docket of Howard Superior Court III.

D. OTHER CIVIL FILINGS: All other civil cases shall be filed in Howard Circuit Court, Howard Superior Court I, Howard Superior Court II., or Howard Superior Court IV. The court of filing shall be determined by random selection made by the Clerk, using a method which will result in ~~nineteen percent (19%)~~ ten percent (10%) being filed in Howard Circuit Court, ~~twenty-seven (27%)~~ twenty-eight percent (28%) being filed in Howard Superior Court I, ~~twenty-seven percent (27%)~~ twenty-eight percent (28%) being filed in Howard Superior Court II, and ~~twenty-seven percent (27%)~~ thirty-four percent (34%) being filed in Howard Superior Court IV.

E. CRIMINAL CASES: All criminal cases shall be filed pursuant to LR34-CR2.2-29.

(Amended effective ~~April 21st~~, 2023 October 1, 2026)