

MINUTES

Probate Committee

February 20, 2026

Meeting via Microsoft Teams

1. **Attendees:** Geoffrey Bradley, David Certo, Kit Crane, Andrew Hicks, Timothy Hollems, Patrick Jessup, Jason McVicker, Sean Persin (Chair), and Jamie Woods. The meeting was staffed by Mindy Pickett, Indiana Office of Court Services.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The committee approved the minutes of the November 21, 2025, meeting.
3. **Benchbook Updates:** The committee reviewed and approved the following for publication in the benchbook:
 - a. A summary of In re Adoption of A.U.S., 270 N.E.3d 54 (Ind. App. 2025) regarding grandparent intervention and candor to the court in adoption cases drafted by Judge Woods.
4. **Other business:**
 - a. **2026 Legislative Session:** Mindy briefly reviewed the relevant bills this session including S.B. 71 Various Probate Matters, S.B. 275 FSSA Fiscal Matters (re: estates), S.B. 171 Family and Children Matters (re: adoption) and H.B. 1092 Child Services Matters (re: adoption). The committee discussed the issue of other pending matters involving the child not being disclosed in the adoption petition or at a hearing. Committee members discussed their current practices and stressed the importance of making a record and indicated it may be worth adding a best practice note to the benchbook. Judge Persin volunteered to look at this for the next meeting.
 - b. Recent case law was reviewed and discussed including: Matter of Estate of Webster, 24A-ES-2788 (Ind. App. January 26, 2026), Robinson v. Nunley, 273 N.E.3d 117 (Ind. App. 2025), Breuning as Co-Tr. of Willi Breuning and Ilene Breuning Living Tr. Agreement v. Breuning, No. 25A-TR-1491 (Ind. App. Feb. 9, 2026), In re Commitment of A.V., 273 N.E.3d 106 (Ind. App. 2025), reh'g denied (Jan. 8, 2026), A.D. v. Community Fairbanks Behavioral Health, No. 25A-MH-3292 (Ind. App. Feb. 3, 2026), aff'd in part, vacated in part sub nom. Matter of Civ. Commitment of A.D. v Community Fairbanks Behavioral Health, No. 26S-MH-65 (Ind. Feb. 27, 2026), and In re Commitment of P.P., No. 25A-MH-1592 (Ind. App. Feb. 6, 2026). The committee agreed that A.D. and P.P. should be summarized in the benchbook. Judge Certo and Judge Woods volunteered to draft summaries or best practice notes for the next meeting.

2026 Meeting Dates: May 15, August 21, and November 20

- All meetings will be held virtually via Teams beginning at 1:30 p.m. (eastern).