

# Case Initiation & Filings

## Appearances

### Trial Rule 3.1 and Criminal Rule 2.1

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#### Purpose

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The objective of an Appearance is to provide all the necessary information in a single document for the trial court clerk assigning case numbers and the trial judge in performing other case management functions. Additionally, the appearance form provides other parties with necessary information. When completed, initiating parties and attorneys will have met the requirements of Ind. Trial Rule 3.1, T.R. 5(B)(2), T.R. 77(B), and Ind. Criminal Rule 3.1.

- The initiating party, the responding party, and any intervening parties, must file an appearance form in a civil case.
- In a proceeding involving a petition for guardianship, the initiating party shall provide a completed Guardianship Information Sheet in the form set out in Appendix C to the Rules of Trial Procedure. The information sheet is a **confidential** Court Record excluded from public access under Ind. Administrative Access to Court Records Rules.
- An appearance form is filed by the attorney(s) representing the initiating party, responding party, and any intervening parties in all civil cases.
- In a criminal case, the prosecuting attorney, the defendant's attorney, or defendants defending themselves in a criminal case, file an appearance form.

- Any appearance form information or record defined as not accessible to the public under Ind. Access to Court Records 5 (C) (3) is filed in a manner prescribed by T.R. 5.