

INDIANA SUPREME COURT RECORDS ACCESS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 2, 2025 via Zoom

Members present:

Permanent Members:

Justice Mark Massa, Indiana Supreme Court, Chair

Bernice Corley, Esquire, Executive Director, Indiana Public Defenders Council

Greg Pachmayr, Clerk, Indiana Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and Tax Court

Heather Falks, Indiana Supreme Court General Counsel

Mary DePrez, Executive Director, Indiana Office of Court Technology

Members:

Judge Hunter Reece, Warren Circuit Court

Judge Jeffrey Marchal, Marion Superior Courts

Judge Marshelle Broadwell, Marion Superior Courts

Judge Sarah Mullican, Vigo Circuit and Superior Courts

Erin Weaver, Magistrate Hamilton Circuit and Superior Courts

Douglas Church, Esq., Church, Church, Hittle & Antrim

Amelia McClure, Hoosier State Press

Amy Blackett Indiana Prosecutor Attorney Council (designee of Chris Naylor)

Emily Anderson, Delaware County Court Administrator

Chris Nancarrow, Allen County Circuit Clerk

Guests:

Judge Christine Haseman, Monroe Circuit Court

Jon Laramore, Esq., Executive Director of Indiana Legal Services

Gaye Lynn Strickland, Indiana Office of Court Technology

Janelle O'Malley, Indiana Office of Court Technology

Staff Present:

Jeff Wiese, Director, Indiana Office of Court Services

Tom Jones, Indiana Office of Court Services.

I. Call to Order

Justice Mark Massa called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

II. Welcome and Introductions

New committee member Heather Falks was welcomed to the Committee.

III. Approval of November 26, 2024 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 26, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Old Business

A. Evidence Retention

Jeff Wiese reviewed the history of the proposed statewide evidence retention rule previously considered by the Indiana Supreme Court. The Court had declined to adopt a statewide rule due to concerns that it could be viewed as an unfunded mandate for counties.

Discussion focused on developing best practices and guidance for handling physical evidence, particularly weapons, drugs/contraband, and biological evidence. The subcommittee continues researching recommendations.

B. Attorney Access to Protection Order (PO) Cases

The Committee continued discussion regarding whether attorneys using myCase attorney access should be allowed remote access to PO cases before filing an appearance.

Discussion included:

- Federal restrictions on disclosure of protected persons' locations.
- Whether attorneys using secure credentials should be considered "the public."
- Concerns regarding attorney access and survivor safety.
- Potential benefits for attorneys advising prospective clients.

Several members supported expanded attorney access because the records are already available at courthouses. Others expressed concern about federal compliance and funding implications.

Judge Reece moved to provide Indiana attorneys access to PO cases through attorney access on myCase. The motion was seconded and passed. Jeff Wiese will present the recommendation to the Indiana Supreme Court.

C. Subcommittee on Public Access to Documents

Janelle O'Malley reported on subcommittee meetings reviewing remote access policies and prior decisions made by the 2017 Remote Access Task Force.

Topics discussed included:

- Public access to sentencing orders on myCase.
- Party access to confidential cases.
- Public access to probable cause affidavits.
- Attorney access to confidential criminal cases.
- The need to revisit prior remote access policies.

Committee members generally agreed that a new task force with broader stakeholder representation should be formed to review these issues. Jeff Wiese will take this issue to the Court.

V. New Business

A. Proposed Orders and Docketing

The Committee discussed whether proposed orders submitted electronically should be docketed and included in the record on appeal.

Discussion points included:

- Current Odyssey limitations.
- Whether proposed orders should be retained as part of the appellate record.
- Concerns regarding public confusion and judicial editing of proposed orders.
- Potential procedural changes involving e-filing guidelines or appellate rules.

No formal action was taken. Several members favored maintaining the current process while improving education for appellate attorneys regarding access to proposed orders.

B. Civil Forfeiture Case Type

The Committee discussed creating a separate case type or subtype for civil forfeiture actions, which are currently filed as Miscellaneous Civil (MI) cases.

The purpose would be to improve statewide statistical reporting required by statute and allow more accurate tracking of civil forfeiture filings. Jeff Wiese will work with Court Technology and IPAC to determine the best approach and may seek a future Committee vote if a new case type is recommended.

VI. 2026 Meeting Dates

The following meeting dates were announced:

- Tuesday, May 26, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, November 10, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.