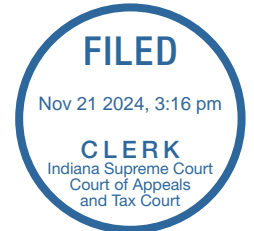


In the  
**Indiana Supreme Court**

In the Matter of the Approval of Local  
Rules for Starke County

Supreme Court Case No.  
24S-MS-400



**Order Approving Amended Local Rules**

The Judge of the Starke Circuit Court requests the approval of amended local rules for civil case special judge assignments in accordance with Trial Rule 79 and for criminal case special judge assignments in accordance with Administrative Rule 21. Attached to this Order are the proposed amended local rules.

Upon examination of the proposed rule amendments requested by the Starke Circuit Court, this Court finds that the proposed rule amendments to LR75-TR79-7 comply with Trial Procedure Rule 79, and the amendments to LR75-AR21-2 comply with Administrative Rule 21, and, accordingly, should be approved.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by this Court that amended Local Rules, LR75-TR79-7 and LR75-AR21-2, for the Starke Circuit Court, set forth as attachments to this Order, are approved, effective upon the date of this Order.

Done at Indianapolis, Indiana, on 11/21/2024 .

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loretta H. Rush".

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Loretta H. Rush  
Chief Justice of Indiana

### **LR75-TR79-7 SPECIAL JUDGES**

1.1 In all civil cases, when the appointment of a special judge is required under Trial Rule 76, or upon disqualification or recusal of the Judge of the Starke Circuit Court under Trial Rule 79 (C), and the parties cannot agree to an eligible special judge under Trial Rule 79 (D), the clerk shall assign the case to the Starke Circuit Court Magistrate.

1.2 If the Starke Circuit Court Magistrate is prohibited from hearing the case, the clerk of the court shall select a special judge from the following list of full-time judicial officers, on a rotating basis:

Pulaski Circuit Court Judge  
LaPorte Circuit Court Judge  
Pulaski Superior Court Judge  
LaPorte Superior Court #1 Judge  
LaPorte Superior Court #2 Judge  
LaPorte Superior Court #3 Judge  
LaPorte Superior Court #4 Judge  
LaPorte Circuit Court #1 Magistrate  
LaPorte Circuit Court #2 Magistrate  
LaPorte Superior Court #4 Magistrate

1.3 If a special judge cannot be selected using the procedure set out above, then the judge in the case shall certify the same to the Indiana Supreme Court for appointment of a special judge.

### **LR75-AR21-2 CASE REASSIGNMENT AND SPECIAL JUDGES**

1.1 In all criminal cases, whenever the Judge of the Starke Circuit Court grants a change of judge, or disqualifies or recuses himself, the clerk shall assign the case to the Starke Circuit Court magistrate.

1.2 If the Starke Circuit Court magistrate is prohibited from hearing the case, then the clerk of the court shall select a Special Judge from a list of full-time judicial officers in Pulaski and LaPorte counties. The list shall follow this sequence:

Pulaski Circuit Court Judge  
LaPorte Circuit Court Judge  
Pulaski Superior Court Judge  
LaPorte Superior Court #1 Judge  
LaPorte Superior Court #2 Judge  
LaPorte Superior Court #3 Judge  
LaPorte Superior Court #4 Judge  
LaPorte Circuit Court #1 Magistrate  
LaPorte Circuit Court #2 Magistrate  
LaPorte Superior Court #4 Magistrate

1.3 If no full-time judicial officer within District 3 can hear the case, the clerk shall select a full-time judicial officer from the counties contiguous to Starke County on a rotating basis.

1.4 In the event that a special judge appointed pursuant to this procedure is unable to serve, then the clerk shall select the next judge on the list. In the event the Judge presiding in a felony or misdemeanor case concludes that the unique circumstance presented in such proceeding require appointment by the Indiana Supreme Court of a special judge, this presiding judge may request the Indiana Supreme Court for such appointment.