

**STATE OF INDIANA – COUNTY OF ST. JOSEPH  
IN THE ST. JOSEPH CIRCUIT, SUPERIOR, AND PROBATE COURTS**

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**Notice of Proposed New Rule or Amendment(s) to Local Court Rule(s)  
March 29, 2019**

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In accordance with Trial Rule 81 of the Indiana Court Rules, the St. Joseph Circuit, Superior, and Probate Courts hereby give notice to the bar and the public that the Courts propose to amend the Local Rule(s) for the courts of record of St. Joseph County, effective May 1, 2019. All new text is shown by underlining and deleted text is shown by ~~striketrough~~. Supreme Court approval is required for Local Rules concerning Caseload Allocation Plan and may not take effect until approved by the Supreme Court.

The time period for the bar and the public to comment shall begin on March 29, 2019, and shall close on April 29, 2019. The proposed amendments to the rule will be adopted, modified or rejected before May 1, 2019, and, if required, the final version of the rule will be submitted to the Indiana Supreme Court for review and approval not later than May 1, 2019.

Comments by the bar and the public should be made in writing and mailed, or emailed, to:

Lisa A. Plencner, Court Administrator of the St. Joseph Circuit Court, Attn: Public Comment on Local Rules, St. Joseph County Courthouse, 101 S. Main Street, Room 223, South Bend, Indiana, 46601; or [lplencner@sjcindiana.com](mailto:lplencner@sjcindiana.com)

*Or*

Brigette R. Wasielewski, Court Administrator of the St. Joseph Superior Court, Attn: Public Comment on Local Rules, St. Joseph County Courthouse, 101 S. Main Street, Room 23, South Bend, IN 46601; or [bwasielowski@sjcindiana.com](mailto:bwasielowski@sjcindiana.com)

A paper copy of the proposed amended local rule(s) will be made available for viewing in the office of the Clerk of St. Joseph County, St. Joseph County Courthouse, 101 S. Main Street, South Bend, Indiana during normal business hours. Persons with Internet access may view the proposed amended local rules at the following websites:

<http://www.stjoebar.org> or <http://www.courts.IN.gov/rules/local>

*Hon. John E. Broden  
Judge, St. Joseph Circuit Court*

*Hon. David C. Chapleau  
Chief Judge, St. Joseph Superior Court*

*Hon. Jason Cichowicz  
Judge, St. Joseph Probate Court*

413.1. Website Work in Marital Dissolution and Separation Cases and Paternity Cases. In marital dissolution, and separation, and paternity cases, parents with children under the age of eighteen (18) on the date of their initial petition shall complete the website work on [www.UpToParents.org](http://www.UpToParents.org), or a similar website program approved by the Court, within thirty (30) days of the filing of the action. Parents in dissolution and separation cases shall complete the classes within 60 days, and should take a completed copy of their work to their co-parenting class(es), and Parents shall submit a copy of “The Conclusion Page” (which appears as the final page of the website work) to the DRCB for filing with the Court to verify completion of the website work. Parents in paternity cases may also file a copy directly with the Clerk of the Court print a copy of the [www.UpToParents.org](http://www.UpToParents.org) “The Conclusion Page” and bring it to any future hearing.

413.2. Paternity Cases. In paternity cases, filed in the St. Joseph Superior and Circuit courts, parents shall: attend the co-parenting class ordered by the Probate Court. Each parent shall contact the DRCB within twenty (20) days of the filing of the initial petition in their case to schedule attendance at co-parenting classes. Parents shall complete the classes within 60 days of the finding of paternity in any paternity case, unless otherwise authorized by the Court. Parents in paternity cases shall complete the website work at [www.ProudToParent.org](http://www.ProudToParent.org) or a similar website approved by the Court and take their completed website work to their co-parenting classes.

1. Attend the “Brain Train” program at the Family and Children’s Center to participate in age appropriate play activities and be referred to valuable community resources available to the family, including the “Talk With Your Baby” program at the Robinson Center, and
2. Attend a meeting at a branch of either the St. Joseph County Library or Mishawka-Penn-Harris Library to obtain a library card for the child and sign up for free children’s books through the “Imagination Library” program of the Community Foundation. While there, free computer use is available to complete the

website work on [www.UpToParents.org](http://www.UpToParents.org) required in the preceding paragraph 413.2.

Effective October 1, 2019, in paternity cases filed in the St. Joseph Probate Court, parents shall attend the two required programs as described above.