

Case Numbering

Court Identifier

Since 1987, all state courts have unique identifiers, based on the county, type of court and court number. The county numbers were assigned in alphabetical order and are listed in Ind. Administrative Rule 8(B)(1). All cases filed in St. Joseph County will have the same county number (71)

Section (B)(1) of the rule gives each type of court a particular code. For instance, Circuit Courts of each county are designated with "C" and Superior Courts are designated with "D" and Probate Courts are designated with "J."

Since many counties have more than one court, each successive court created in each category is numbered. As new courts are created, the rule provides the identity of the specific court. The remainder of section (B)(1) sets forth all the court identifiers, with the county, court type and court number.

St Joseph County Court Designations

Circuit Court – 71C01 Judge Michael G. Gotsch

**Circuit Court Magistrate - Andre Gammage South Bend Division
William Wilson, South Bend Division
Larry L Ambler , Mishawaka Division**

**Superior Court - 71D01 Judge Jane WoodwardMiller
71D02 Judge John M. Marnocha
71D03 Judge Jerome Frese
71D04 Judge Margot Reagan
71D05 Judge Jenny Pitts Manier, Mishawaka Division
71D06 Judge David C. Chapleau
71D07 Judge Steven Hostetler
71D08 Judge Elizabeth Hurley**

**Superior Court Magistrates – Elizabeth Hardtke
Paul Singleton
Julie Verheye**

Probate Court - 71J01 Judge James Fox

For reference, the rule retains court identifiers for those courts that were once in existence and have subsequently been abolished. When combined, the first five characters in a case number identify the county, court type and court number.

Year/Month of Filing

The second group of four characters represents the year and month of filing. At the beginning of each year, the filing sequence (see below) returns to “one.” Thus, it is important that each case number reflects the year the case was filed, to differentiate it from another case with the same filing sequence. In addition, to assist in maintaining the files, it is useful to know the month in which a case was filed. Thus the case number uses a two-digit year and two-digit month grouping.

Case type

The third group of two characters designates the type of proceeding. A complete listing of case types can be found here:

http://www.in.gov/judiciary/admin/courtmgmt/stats/2002/v1/trialcourts/case_report.pdf

Filing Sequence

Beginning each new year, the sequence of filing should start at “1” and continue sequentially throughout the year. If your county maintains separate dockets for case types or groups of case types, then each docket may be given separate sequential filing numbers. By assigning the filing sequence in this manner, the county can keep track of how many cases have been filed in the county at any given time, regardless of case type or court.

For example, 49D06-0709-PL-123 decodes as:

49	D	06	07	09	PL	123
County		Court Type	Court Number	Year		Month
COURT IDENTIFIER		YEAR/MONTH OF FILING	CASE TYPE			ANNUAL FILING SEQUENCE

Adapted from State Court Administration website