

Local Rule 10-1 –Names of Parties – Pseudonym Litigant

(a) Notice. If a litigant seeks to proceed under a pseudonym, at the time of filing his or her initial pleading, the party must file under seal a Notice of intention to seek leave to proceed under such pseudonym and disclose the litigant's true name. This notice will be maintained under seal.

(b) Motion. Contemporaneously with the Notice, the litigant must file a motion to proceed under the pseudonym, setting forth the justification under applicable law.

(c) Service. The Notice and motion must be served on each opposing party within 7 days of the opposing party's appearance.

(d) Objection. Any objection to the motion must be filed by the opposing party within 21 days of the party's appearance.

(e) Denial of Motion. If the motion is denied, the litigant has 14 days to file the complaint in his or her true name.

Local Rules Advisory Committee Comments Re: 2018 Amendment

Recognizing that there is a strong presumption in favor of openness in court proceedings, this rule is adopted to provide procedural guidance to litigants who seek to proceed anonymously. The court has an independent duty to determine whether the potential harm to a litigant exceeds the presumption that judicial proceedings are open to the public, such that the litigant should be permitted to proceed under a pseudonym. See *Doe v. City of Chicago*, 360 F.3d 667, 669 (7th Cir. 2004) (Courts may consider a number of factors in making such a determination.); see also *Doe v. Indiana Black Expo, Inc.*, 923 F. Supp. 137, 139-40 (S.D. Ind. 1996) (Hamilton, J). This rule provides a vehicle for a litigant's identity to be disclosed to the court and to the opposing party but not to the public at large pending the outcome of the court's determination of whether the litigant is entitled to proceed anonymously.