



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Southern District of Indiana

Kristine L. Seufert, Clerk
Alison M. Chestovich, Chief Deputy Clerk

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Terre Haute, IN 47807
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121 West Spring Street
New Albany, IN 47150
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October 28, 2025

NOTICE

TO: THE PUBLIC AND MEMBERS OF THE PRACTICING BAR FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

The Court has considered the recommendation of the Local Rules Advisory Committee that the revision of certain Local Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana be adopted, and the Clerk issued a Public Notice on September 15, 2025, regarding the proposed amendments. The Court has considered the proposed amendments and the comments received.

Therefore, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2071, Rule 83 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and Rule 57 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana hereby gives public notice that the following amendments to the Local Rules of this Court are adopted, effective December 1, 2025. Unless otherwise indicated, as seen in this Notice ~~redline~~ text is added and struck text is deleted. The amendments are as follows:

A. Local Rule 1-2 – Access to Local Rules, Attorney's Handbook, and Amendments – is amended as follows:

Local Rule 1-2 – Access to Local Rules, ~~Attorney's Handbook~~, and Amendments

(a) Availability of Rules ~~and Attorney's Handbook~~. These rules ~~and the Attorney's Handbook~~ may be ~~purchased from the clerk's office or~~ accessed for free on the court's web-site at www.insd.uscourts.gov.

(b) Notice of Amendments. These rules may not be amended without public notice and an opportunity for public comment. Notice will be ~~submitted for publication in Res Gestae, the Indiana State Bar Association's monthly publication,~~ published on the court's website at www.insd.uscourts.gov and may also be published elsewhere.

B. The comments to Local Rule 5-11 – Filing Under Seal – Civil Cases – are amended as follows:

Note: The 2015 revision includes a more detailed procedure for obtaining permission from the court to maintain filed documents under seal in civil matters. Filings under seal in criminal matters are the subject of new Local Criminal Rule 49.1-2. The parties are encouraged to consider and confer regarding redaction whenever practical and possible to avoid multiple filings of the same document and unnecessary motion practice. Parties should note that a protective order does not authorize a party to file or maintain a document under seal. In addition, the parties should follow Seventh Circuit guidance on the legal parameters for maintaining documents under seal. ~~enunciated in cases such as City of Greenville, Illinois v. Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC, 764 F.3d 695 (7th Cir. 2014); Bond v. Utreas, 585 F.3d 1061 (7th Cir. 2009); and Baxter International, Inc. v. Abbott Laboratories, 297 F.3d 544 (7th Cir. 2002).~~ Adopted effective January 1, 2015. Amended July 1, 2023, to eliminate the requirements for a sealed cover sheet.

C. Local Rule 5-13 – Patent/Trademark/Copyright Reports – is amended as follows:

Any party filing a pleading, complaint, or counterclaim that raises for the first time a claim arising under the patent and trademark or copyright laws of the United States must file with the pleading, complaint, or counterclaim a separate notice to the clerk, as follows:

(a) Report on the Filing or Determination of an Action Regarding a Patent or Trademark. For patent or trademark claims, a completed AO120 form ("Report on the Filing or Determination of an Action Regarding a Patent or Trademark") to assist the clerk's compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 290 and/or 15 U.S.C. § 1116; or

(b) Report on the Filing or Determination of an Action Regarding a Copyright. For copyright claims, a completed AO121 form ("Report on the Filing or Determination of an Action Regarding a Copyright") to assist the clerk's compliance with 17 U.S.C. § 508.

D. The comments to Local Rule 10-1 – Names of Parties – Pseudonym Litigant – are amended as follows:

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.