

*VIDEO RESOURCES for Unrepresented
Litigants*

FAMILY MATTERS:

<http://www.in.gov/judiciary/2616.htm>

Small Claims Court:

<http://www.in.gov/judiciary/3966.htm>

The Indiana Supreme Court recommends against your attempting to proceed in court without the representation of a lawyer. Before deciding whether or not to represent yourself, you should know what will be expected of you. The Court has created the video above to provide information about the court process and what your responsibilities will be if you represent yourself.

Representing Yourself in Court: What you need to know Start Here

The Indiana Supreme Court recommends against your attempting to proceed in court without the representation of a lawyer. The Court also recognizes the fact that in some instances people choose not to hire an attorney or cannot afford to hire one. Representing yourself in court should not be taken lightly, and there are many instances in which hiring an attorney is a good idea. In fact, we suggest that even if you use the forms provided on this site that you still talk with an attorney prior to submitting them to a court in order to achieve the best result possible.

Before deciding whether or not to represent yourself, you should know what will be expected of you. The Court has created the video below to provide information about the court process and what your responsibilities will be if you represent yourself. Remember that this video and the assistance offered by this website apply to civil cases. If you are charged with a criminal offense, the court can appoint an attorney for you if you cannot afford to hire one.

Web Address: <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/selfservice/2361.htm>



[Family Matters: Choosing to Represent Yourself in Court](#)

A guide for unrepresented litigants developed by the Indiana Supreme Court. This video provides information about your responsibilities and the procedures you must follow if you choose to represent yourself.



[Representing Yourself in Indiana Small Claims Court](#)

To view any chapter in this series, click on the chapter you wish to view in the player above. Or, to open an individual chapter in a new window, choose from the list below. To aid searching for specific material, time markers (min:sec) indicate when a new chapter in a series begins.

[Introduction](#)

Choosing to represent yourself in court.

[General Responsibilities](#)

Your responsibilities as a self-represented litigant.

[Resources](#)

Resources for self-represented litigants.

[The Pleadings](#)

Learn about pleadings, appearances, petitions, appearances, summons, service, filing fees and financial declaration.

- The Appearance (1:00)
- The Summons (1:40)
- Service (2:20)
- Filing Fees (4:40)
- Financial Declaration (5:30)

[Protective Orders](#)

Learn about protective orders.

[After Your Hearing](#)

Learn about your responsibilities following your court hearing.

[Request for Hearing](#)

Learn about how to make a request for a court hearing.

[Retirement/Pension Funds](#)

Watch a short video and learn about retirement/pension funds in court.

[Summary Decrees](#)

Covers waiver of final hearing, settlement agreements & dissolution, & paternity agreements.

- Settlement Agreements & Dissolution (1:41)
- Paternity Agreements (3:36)

[Your Court Date](#)

Learn how to prepare for your court date, legal advice and learn about being prompt, what to wear, bringing friends and family and appropriate conduct.

- Legal Advice (1:38)
- Promptness (3:10)
- What to wear (4:08)
- Bringing Friends and Family (5:04)
- Appropriate Conduct (6:21)

[Preparing for Court](#)

Learn about provisional hearings and watch other court proceedings.

- Observation (1:04)

[The Pleadings II](#)

Covers making copies of files and types of additional motions.

- Motions (0:56)

[Children and Divorce](#)

Learn about mediation & counseling, parenting time (visitation) and completing child support forms.

- Mediation & Counseling (2:37)
- Parenting Time & Completing Child Support Forms (4:10)