

JUDGES' NOTICE TO PARENTS GOING THROUGH DIVORCE

We, the Judges and Magistrates of Lake County, share the following information so that you will know of our commitment to the best interests of children. *Please read this information carefully, as we expect you and all other persons involved in your case to be partners in serving those best interests.*

1. As soon as possible, visit www.LakeCountyKids.org to learn about the Courts' expectations and to read the Lake County Rules of Family Law for important information about how divorce cases will be handled to:
 - ensure safety;
 - reduce conflict;
 - build cooperation; and,
 - protect the best interests of all family members, especially all children.
2. If there will be no attorneys in your case, see the "Cases Without Attorneys" link on Courts' website, www.LakeCountyKids.org, for special work required of you.
3. If you and your spouse have any children under the age of 18, you **must** do the following within 30 days:
 - a. Register for a co-parenting class. You will find more information about the class and how to register at the link on the Courts' website, www.LakeCountyKids.org.
 - b. Complete the work on www.UpToParents.org, and take your completed work to your co-parenting class, give a copy to your attorney, and bring it with you to all court appearances and other meetings.
4. If you and your spouse have any children under the age of 18, you should attempt to establish your own plan for the decision making and living arrangements that will serve to nurture and protect your children. A plan which is worked out between the parents to fit the needs of their children and family is almost always the best. You should review the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines at the link on the Courts' website, www.LakeCountyKids.org. The Court considers those Guidelines to be the **minimum** parenting time for each parent to have frequent, meaningful, and continuing contact with their children. We recommend that you use the Parenting Plan Proposal/Worksheet which you will also find on the Courts' website, www.LakeCountyKids.org.
5. You and your spouse must complete and exchange Financial Declaration Forms with all required attachments. You will find this Form at the link on the Courts' website, www.LakeCountyKids.org.