

# SENATE BILL No. 246

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 33-41-1-5; IC 35-32-4.

**Synopsis:** Redaction of children's names in court records. Requires the names of child victims, child witnesses, and certain other persons to be redacted in criminal cases. Requires the use of an anonymous designator such as "Child Witness No. 1" when redacting a name, and prohibits redaction that uses the person's initials or that describes the person in terms of a family relationship.

**Effective:** July 1, 2026.

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## Freeman

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January 8, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law.

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Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 246

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning criminal law and procedure.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 33-41-1-5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) If requested to do  
3 so, an official reporter shall furnish to either party in a cause a  
4 transcript of all or any part of the proceedings required by the reporter  
5 to be taken or noted, including all documentary evidence.  
6 (b) An official reporter shall furnish a typewritten or printed  
7 transcript described in subsection (a) as soon after being requested to  
8 do so as practicable.  
9 (c) The reporter shall certify that the transcript contains all the  
10 evidence given in the cause.  
11 (d) The reporter may require payment for a transcript, or that the  
12 payment be satisfactorily secured, before the reporter proceeds to do  
13 the required work.  
14 **(e) In a criminal action, the official reporter shall comply with**  
15 **the requirements for redaction under IC 35-32-4.**  
16 SECTION 2. IC 35-32-4 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS  
17 A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY



1, 2026]:

**Chapter 4. References to Child Victims and Witnesses**

**Sec. 1. This chapter applies only to a criminal action.**

**Sec. 2. In any document filed or submitted in a criminal action, the following information must be redacted:**

**(1) A reference to the name of a child victim or a child witness.**

**(2) A reference to the name of a person whose name is not required to be redacted under subdivision (1), if the reference to the name could be used to identify a child whose name is required to be redacted under subdivision (1).**

**Sec. 3. The name of a person whose name is required to be redacted under this chapter must be replaced with a descriptive anonymous designator, such as "Child Witness No. 1" or "Passenger". Initials or references to familial relationships may not be used.**

**Sec. 4. If a reference to an unredacted name is necessary for the resolution of the criminal action, any document containing the unredacted name shall be filed as a separate confidential document in accordance with Rule 5 of the Indiana Rules on Access to Court Records.**

