

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7110
BILL NUMBER: SB 246

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 20, 2026
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Redaction of Children's Names in Court Records.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Freeman
FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Bascom

BILL STATUS: As Passed Senate

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the names of child victims, child witnesses, and certain other persons to be redacted in criminal cases. It 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 Date: July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Court Reporters:* The courts may incur some minimal costs for training court reporters on the proposed redaction procedures for child victims, child witnesses, and other persons in criminal cases. However, any additional expenditures would likely be very small.

When preparing transcripts for public access, under Rule 5(C)(2), a court reporter must exclude the names of child witnesses in cases involving sex offenses from public access, and any references shall be replaced with initials or similar designations that ensure their anonymity.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Supreme Court.

Local Agencies Affected: Trials courts; court reporters.

Information Sources: Indiana Public Access to Court Records, Rule 5: Records Excluded from Public Access (effective January 1, 2024), <https://rules.incourts.gov/Content/records/rule5/01-01-2022.htm>.

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