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September 29, 2022

Interim Study Committee on
Courts and the Judiciary Representative
Attn: Jerry Torr, Chair Senator
Liz Brown, Vice Chair

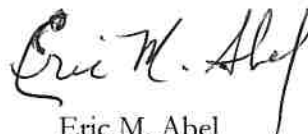
Dear Senators,

We are thankful for this opportunity to express our opinion and provide our experiences with the Court system. We are in support of another Court. Currently our experience with the Vigo County Juvenile Court is that the Juvenile Court is significantly encumbered. This experience has no reflection on the magistrate or the Court staff. The current magistrate and court staff have done a fantastic job at navigating the substantial increase in their docket. They cannot work twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. This experience is based upon the observation that over the last few years, there has been a significant increase in filings in Juvenile Court, including filings by the Indiana Department of Child Services. This increase in filings has provided a substantial scheduling conflict for our office and other law firms in the community. For example, if I file a motion, requesting a half day or full day hearing on custody and parenting time issues in Juvenile Court, the Court will be setting the matter for approximately April 2023 or later. The time delay in presenting evidence in court is problematic for children who are in situations where there is conflict between parents. Bluntly, we are in desperate need of another court in Vigo County. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,



Blake W. Reed



Eric M. Abel