

**DISCLAIMER:** The information below is the opinion of Patricia L. McKinnon, Esq., and should not be considered “legal advice.” Each person’s legal case is unique, with its own set of facts and applicable laws. You should consult with an attorney, of your own choosing, before acting on any of the information below.

## **A FEW COMMON LEGAL TERMS**

**CHILD SUPPORT WORKSHEET** - A written calculation of the child support owed by one party to the other. It is either signed by one party or by both parties. It must include two (2) separate pages including a listing, on the second page, of the annual number of overnights that the non-custodial parent will have or now has with the parties’ child or children.

**DECREE OF DISSOLUTION** - A court order dissolving a parties’ marriage. If the parties have not agreed on how terms in a formal settlement agreement, then this order contains the Court’s decision on all Final Hearing issues, such as property division, child support, child custody, and the application of the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines.

**DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE** - The name given to one parties’ request to dissolve the parties’ marriage. The initial petition filed with the Court to start a divorce action is often called a, “Verified Petition For Dissolution of Marriage.”

**INDIANA PARENTING TIME GUIDELINES** - A written document containing the terms and conditions that both parties must follow regarding contact between the parties, and their child or children. These are statewide guidelines that do not vary from county to county. Prior to the issuance of these guidelines, each county issued its own “Visitation Guidelines” which remain in effect in a case until a Court applies the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines to that specific case.

**PRAECIPE FOR HEARING** - A written request by one party for the Court to set a hearing on the outstanding issues. This can be a request for a Preliminary or early hearing, or it can be a request for a final hearing. It also may be filed anytime a party wishes a hearing later for modification of custody, child support, parenting time, or any other post-divorce issues.

**PRO BONO** - An attorney working for a client for free.

**PRO SE** - someone who proceeds without an attorney in a case.

**QUITCLAIM DEED** - A written legal document wherein one person “quits” or gives up her or her right to a piece of property, such as a marital residence.

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT** - One of several documents filed to conclude a dissolution (divorce) case. The written Settlement Agreement contains the terms of the parties’ agreement on all the outstanding issues which would have been heard by the Court at a Final Hearing, such as property division, child support, child custody, and the application of the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines.

**WAIVER OF FINAL HEARING** - The parties in a dissolution (divorce) case sign this document requesting the Court not require a Final Hearing since the parties have signed a Settlement Agreement and submitted it to the Court instead of attending a hearing.