

**THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, SCOTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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Honorable Marlita A. Greve
Chief Judge
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Kathy M. Gaylord
District Court Administrator
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District Judges

Hon. Mark J. Smith
Hon. Mark D. Cleve
Hon. Nancy S. Tabor
Hon. Mary E. Howes
Hon. Marlita A. Greve
Hon. Paul Macek
Hon. Thomas G. Reidel
Hon. John D. Telleen
Hon. Joel W. Barrows
Hon. Mark R. Lawson
Hon. Henry W. Latham II
Hon. Stuart Werling

District Associate Judges

Hon. Gary P. Strausser
Hon. Christine Dalton
Hon. Phillip J. Tabor
Hon. Cheryl E. Traum
Hon. Mark R. Fowler

Magistrates

Hon. Bert M. Watson
Hon. R. Douglas Wells
Hon. Michael M. Judge
Hon. Neva Rettig Baker
Hon. Cynthia Z. Taylor
Hon. Dennis D. Jasper
Hon. Carrie E. Coyle
Hon. Theresa J. Seeberger
Hon. Stephen P. Wing
Hon. John E. Wunder
Hon. John L. Kies
Hon. Christine D. Frederick
Hon. Bradley T. Boffeli
Hon. Tamra J. Roberts
Hon. Eric Syverud

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT TO SERVE AS PILOT PROJECT SITE

DAVENPORT, IOWA – The Iowa Supreme Court selected the Seventh Judicial District to serve as a pilot project site for instituting new, informal family law trial procedure. The informal procedures should expedite the resolution of cases that involve less complicated factual circumstances.

The new trial procedures are available for a wide range of family law matters including divorces; legal separations; paternity (unmarried parent) cases; and modifications of child custody, visitation and child support. Informal family law trials are ideally suited for cases in which there are no complex issues and, in the case of divorces, minimal property or debts.

“The Seventh Judicial District is very excited and honored to be the pilot project site for this new informal trial process,” Chief District Court Judge Marlita Greve said. “We believe this process will improve access to justice for all Iowans. It also responds to the changing demands placed on our judicial system with the increasing number of self-represented parties and the increasing workload of judicial officers.”

In an informal family law trial, the judicial officer presiding over the hearing will question the parties. Additionally, the rules of evidence are relaxed, which means that parties may offer any testimony or exhibit without objection by the other side. The judge will determine what weight, if any, to give the testimony or exhibit. Self-represented litigants in particular may find this informal trial procedure easier to navigate than the traditional trial process.

The role of an attorney in an informal family law trial is limited to stating the issues, answering questions from the judicial officer, and providing legal argument at the conclusion of the trial. This limited role may require less time to prepare for trial, which could reduce the cost of representation for parties who choose to hire an attorney and should result in faster resolutions for all parties.

To learn more about this unique pilot program, visit [www.iowacourts.gov/About the Courts/District Courts/District Seven/](http://www.iowacourts.gov/About%20the%20Courts/District%20Courts/District%20Seven/) or call Court Administration at (563) 326-8783. The Seventh Judicial District includes Cedar, Clinton, Jackson, Muscatine and Scott Counties, serves over 300,000 Iowans and processes over 70,000 cases annually.

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