DRAFT for discussion. Not legal advice. Prepared for review by licensed Indiana counsel before any use.

The One Standard Act

One rule for men and women, in criminal court and family court. Every line is written the same for both sexes. Only lies the speaker *knows* are lies are reached. A good-faith report, even one that is never proven, is always protected.

Title	What it does in Indiana	Who already does it
I. Lie under oath, serve the sentence	If perjury or a false report gets someone convicted, jailed, or put under a court order, the liar faces a penalty scaled to that harm, up to the level of the crime the innocent person was convicted of. A jury must find the lie caused it. A liar who comes forward on their own avoids the higher penalty, so the truth comes out sooner.	Georgia (perjury that causes imprisonment is punished up to the victim's sentence). Indiana already raises false informing when it "results in harm."
II. No clock on the lie	The time to charge the lie starts when the conviction is thrown out or the lie is discovered. Within 180 days after an exoneration, the prosecutor must put the charging decision in writing.	Indiana already starts the clock at discovery for DNA cases, rape, and securities fraud. The written decision is new.
III. Lie for money, pay the money	A party who knowingly lies in a custody, support, divorce, or protective order case pays the other side's legal bills, can be fined (fine goes to civil legal aid), and the lie counts in custody. Proof must be clear and convincing.	California (sanctions for knowingly false abuse claims in custody cases); Connecticut (mandatory sanctions for fabricated family-court filings).
IV. Both parents	Courts start from joint legal custody and equal time with both fit parents. The starting point does not apply where there is domestic violence, child abuse, or a protective order after a hearing. A parent who blocks court-ordered time faces make-up time, fees, and contempt, the way a parent who misses support does.	Kentucky (2018), Arkansas (2021), West Virginia (2022), Florida (2023), Missouri (2023).
V. No payout for walking out	A spouse who committed adultery, left without cause, or ran a campaign of known lies against the other spouse gets no maintenance (except bare necessities if disabled) and no more than half of what the marriage built. Turning a child against a fit parent counts in custody, judged by conduct, not labels.	North Carolina and Georgia bar alimony for adultery; Missouri and Arkansas weigh which parent supports the child's bond with the other.
VI. Test before you sign	A free DNA test is offered (never required) before a man signs a paternity affidavit or is ordered to pay. If DNA later excludes him, he can undo paternity at any time and the unpaid debt is wiped, including debt owed to the state. Knowingly naming the wrong man becomes a crime for anyone, not only "a woman," as the law reads now.	Georgia and Texas allow disestablishment on DNA exclusion. Federal child support officials said in 2003 that wiping arrears after disestablishment does not violate the Bradley Amendment. Indiana already ends arrears when paternity is vacated for fraud or mistake.
VII. No jail without a lawyer; no door closed; count it	No one is jailed for contempt over support or parenting time without a lawyer if poor and a written finding they could pay. State-funded shelters and hotlines serve men and women alike. Courts publish yearly numbers by sex.	Indiana courts already require counsel for poor parents facing jail; the U.S. Supreme Court requires ability-to-pay safeguards (Turner v. Rogers, 2011). Federal VAWA law bars sex discrimination in funded programs.
VIII. The smear is abuse	A campaign of known lies to cut a partner off from family, job, or children counts as coercive control for protective orders and custody (civil, not a crime, and no emergency order on that alone). Knowingly false accusations of a crime or abuse that cost someone their freedom, job, or child become a crime. Baiting someone into a fight and then hiding that from police becomes a misdemeanor.	Coercive control is in the civil law of California, Connecticut, Washington, and Massachusetts. The false-accusation and provocation pieces build on Indiana's own false informing and provocation laws.

What it costs. Mostly existing duties made law. New costs: free DNA tests offered before affidavits, appointed lawyers in contempt cases (already required by Indiana case law), and court data reporting. The Legislative Services Agency will score it.

Who hears it. House and Senate Judiciary; House Courts and Criminal Code; Senate Corrections and Criminal Law. Equal-parenting bills have been filed in Indiana nearly every year since 2017 and have died in House Judiciary.

Full bill text, legal memo, and every source: see the accompanying files.