|  |
| --- |
| **File a motion: Defend against your Missouri eviction** |

**Congratulations {{ users }}!** You have finished the forms you need to file your motion and defend against your Missouri eviction. The rest of the pages in this packet are your motions {% if other\_parties.number() %}in **{{ other\_parties }} v. {{ users }}**{% endif %}.

## Next steps

1. File your Motion with the court now.
2. Check with your county clerk for how to complete the Notice of Hearing.
3. Deliver a copy to {{ showifdef('other\_parties[0]') }} or their attorney.
4. Keep a copy for yourself.
5. Go to court at the date and time your paperwork tells you to go.

## Important warnings

1. **You may need to leave your cell phone at home.** Many courts do not allow phones. If you have evidence on your phone, you may need to print it out before you come in. You can call the court to see if there are any special rules to follow.
2. **Do not include confidential information with your motion.** If you need to submit a document with confidential information, you may need to redact it. Ask the court for more information.
3. **The judge might decide you cannot make some of your claims in this case.** It does not mean you lost the case.

## File your motion as soon as possible.

1. Look over the forms below one more time. Make sure everything is correct.
2. Call the {{ trial\_court }} to find out how they want you to send your forms to them. You may be able to mail it, or you may need to bring it in person.
3. {%p if defined('trial\_court.address.address') %} The address of your court is:   
   {{ trial\_court.address.on\_one\_line() }}. Look at your court paperwork to confirm.
4. {%p endif %}

## What happens in the hearing?

The judge reads the landlord's eviction complaint and your answer. They may ask you and your landlord questions.

**Tell** the judge about the facts that you wrote in your answer. **Bring** any evidence that you have with you. Also, bring any **witnesses** that you have.

## What can happen after the hearing?

After the hearing, the judge writes their decision down. The decision can:

1. Rule totally for your landlord. You may be asked to move 10 days after the judge's decision.
2. Rule totally for you. You would get to stay in your home. If you have claims for money, the judge can also order the landlord to pay you.
3. Decide that you win part of the case and that the landlord wins part of the case.
4. Rule that the landlord made a mistake, but allow the landlord to amend the eviction case and try again. They may set a new date for an eviction hearing.

If the judge agrees that you owe rent, even if you have claims against your landlord for money, you may be asked to pay the total amount of rent owed into a special account.

## What happens if I lose the eviction case?

You may still have the right to “pay and stay.” You also have the right to ask for a new trial within 10 days of the court hearing.

## Learn more

Visit motenanthelp.org or use the QR code below:

{{p qr\_code("https://motenanthelp.org/learn/court-evictions/", width="1in", alt\_text=" https://motenanthelp.org/learn/court-evictions/") | markdown }}