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| Filing a Small Claim: Next Steps |

Congratulations {{ users }}! You have completed all the required forms to file your small claim with the court. The remainder of this packet contains your claim {% if other\_parties.number() %}in **{{ users }} v. {{ other\_parties }}{%** endif %}

## What should I do next for my case?

1. Retain a copy of this filing for your records.
2. The court will mail the defendant a copy of the "Statement of Claim and Notice of Trial" form, which notifies them of your claim and of the hearing date.
3. The clerk of the court in which you filed this claim will explain how to attend your hearing.

## What can I expect during the hearing?

1. Before the hearing begins, the parties and witnesses will be sworn in.
2. First, the plaintiff will present all the evidence demonstrating why they should be granted monetary relief. You, as the plaintiff, have the burden of proof in your case.
3. Next, the defendant will argue why they do not owe you monetary relief.
4. After the parties present their arguments, the presiding clerk-magistrate may ask questions to clarify the case details.
5. Finally, the clerk-magistrate will either issue a **judgment immediately** or will take your case **under advisement.**
6. If the decisionmaker takes your case under advisement, you will usually receive a decision **within ten days after the hearing.**

## What happens if my request for relief is denied?

1. If the clerk-magistrate denied your request for relief, that judgment is **final.** You cannot appeal it.
2. However, if the defendant filed a counterclaim against you, and you lost on that counterclaim, you may appeal the counterclaim judgment only.

## I still have questions about my case.

If you still have questions about your case, please contact the {{ trial\_court }} {{ showifdef('trial\_court.phone\_number') }} during business hours.

{%p if defined('trial\_court.address.address') %} The address of your court is:   
{{ trial\_court.address.on\_one\_line() }}.

{%p endif %}

## How can I learn more about small claims?

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-law-about-small-claims-and-bringing-a-claim-to-court> for more information about filing small claims.