

# **Small Claims Court - Basic Information**

## **Understanding Kansas Small Claims Court: What You Need to Know**

Kansas small claims court was established in 1973 to provide a simple, informal procedure for people to settle smaller legal problems cheaply and quickly. Americans have always had the right to represent themselves in a courtroom. In small claims court, the parties represent themselves on small legal matters without attorneys.

- Small claims court is only for simple cases to recover money or property worth less than \$4,000.00.
- You cannot be represented by a lawyer in small claims.
- No person can file more than 20 small claims cases in one calendar year.
- The sheriff's office charges a fee to personally serve a summons.

Filing a Small Claims Case:

- Go to the Clerk of the District Court office in the County where the defendant resides.
- Have with you the name and address of the person being sued.
- The Clerk will provide you with a small claims filing packet.
- You may fill out the petition in the office or take it home to complete.
- When you turn in the completed petition, you must pay the filing fee and sheriff's charge if the summons is to be served personally.
- The Clerk will process the petition and set a trial date for your case.

## **About small claims court**

Small claims court provides a simple, informal procedure for people to settle certain legal problems cheaply and quickly.

In small claims court, you can sue someone or be sued by someone, and you present your side of the case yourself. You cannot be represented by a lawyer unless the other party is a lawyer.

Small claims court handles only simple cases involving small amounts of money or property.

The following courts have small claims information on their websites.

- **1st Judicial District**

Atchison and Leavenworth counties

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- **3rd Judicial District**

Shawnee County

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- **4th Judicial District**

Anderson, Coffey, Franklin, and Osage counties

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- **5th Judicial District**

Lyon and Chase counties

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- **7th Judicial District**

Douglas County

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- **8th Judicial District**

Dickinson, Geary, Marion, and Morris counties

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- **10th Judicial District**

Johnson County

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- **21st Judicial District**

Clay and Riley counties

- **30th Judicial District**

Barber, Harper, Kingman, Pratt, and Sumner counties

## [Small claims](#)



## Small Claims Court Forms

- [Small claims information](#) Kansas Judicial Branch
- [Petition, summons, and defendant's claim](#) Kansas Judicial Council
- [Request to Waive Filing Fee](#) Kansas Legal Services
- [Small Claims Security Deposit Form](#) Kansas Legal Services

[Here is a brochure](#) from the Kansas Bar Association that may answer any more questions you have about small claims courts in Kansas.

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