

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

Small claims court is a division of the State court system which allows individuals to bring actions, or defend actions, without an attorney. In these proceedings, the parties go informally before a judge and present their side of the case. The judge hears each side's evidence and then makes a ruling based on what they have heard. There is generally not a jury involved in small claims courts. The function of small claims courts is to allow smaller disputes to be settled outside of the formal court systems. Small claims courts have a limit to the total monetary value allowed, and these vary by state. The small claims courts are designed to allow a person to have their day in court without the time and monetary implications that come along with traditional litigation.

+ WHAT CLAIMS CAN BE BROUGHT?

- + Breach of Contract
- + Personal Injury
- + Various Other Claims for monetary damages
- + Property Damage
- + Evictions

MISSOURI

- + Claims can be brought up to \$5,000 worth of damages
- + The Missouri Courts website has a variety of easy-to-use forms to fill out for use in Small Claims Court
Website can be found at: <https://www.courts.mo.gov/page.jsp?id=704>
- + The forms can be filled out and submitted to the county courthouse where the Plaintiff resides
- + There is no general phone number for inquiries about Small Claims, but the local county courthouses should be able to answer questions individuals may have
- + Only individuals or corporations inside Missouri can sue or be sued in Small Claims Court
- + No lawyer representation is allowed
- + Small claims court only awards money, not the return of property or goods.
- + No more than 12 small claims allowed

ILLINOIS

- + Claims can be brought up to \$10,000 worth of damages
- + Lawyer representation is permitted
- + Illinois has a very user-friendly Eight Step Process listed out on their website for how to complete the Small Claims Process
Website can be found at: <http://www.ag.state.il.us/consumers/sml-claims.html>
- + This website has all the information a person needs to know about how to file a claim, and what to expect during the whole process
- + Any individual or corporation inside Illinois can sue or be sued (no corporation may appear without counsel)
- + Small claims can include return of property/-goods or money judgments
- + A jury may be demanded by either party and it will be 6 members unless 12 is demanded.

KANSAS

- + Claims can be brought up to \$4,000 worth of damages
- + Attorney's are not permitted in small claims courts prior to the entry of judgment
- + The various county district courthouses have information on their websites regarding their small claims court. Website can be found at: <http://www.ks.courts.org/rules-procedures-forms/small-claims-information/default.asp>
- + You can sue any person or business in Kansas
- + Small claims can include the return of property/goods or money judgments