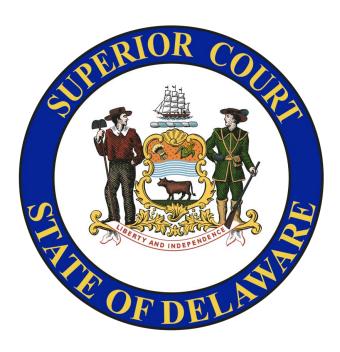
Leonard L. Williams Justice Center

Self-Represented Litigant Packet



The Honorable Andrea L. Rocanelli

Brittany Butler 302-255-0787 Linda Rizzo 302-255-2306

Leonard L. Williams Justice Center 500 N. King St. Wilmington, DE, 19803

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

ANDREA L. ROCANELLI JUDGE

LEONARD L. WILLIAMS JUSTICE CENTER 500 NORTH KING STREET, SUITE 10400 WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801-3733

TELEPHONE (302) 255-2306

Your civil case has been assigned to the Honorable Andrea L. Rocanelli.

Generally speaking, the Court may hold self-represented litigants to a less stringent

standard in presenting a case. However, self-represented litigants will still be held to

the standards and rules of the Court in order to maintain orderly and efficient

administration of justice. Specifically, you will be required to comply with the

Superior Court Rules of Civil Procedure and the Delaware Uniform Rules of

Evidence. These rules can be found in the New Castle County Law Library, which

is located inside the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center (formerly known as the New

Castle County Courthouse). They can also be found at a public library or on the

Court's website (https://courts.delaware.gov/rules/).

Judge Rocanelli tries civil cases in the FIRST and THIRD quarters of each

calendar year. For scheduling purposes please contact Brittany Butler, Judicial Civil

Case Manager (302-255-0787) or Linda Rizzo, Administrative Specialist (302-255-

2306).

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE SAMPLE COMPLAINT FORM

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

Name(s) of Plaintiff(s) (**),))
Plaintiff(s),	
v.) C.A. No. <u>Number assigned to the case by</u>) the Court when it was first filed
Name(s) of Defendant(s) (**),))
Defendant(s).))
<u>CO</u>	<u>MPLAINT</u>
1. On (date), briefly describe the b	packground of the case leading to your motion.
2. Briefly state other facts that help	p describe the situation using short, numbered
paragraphs. This sample has	two numbered paragraphs, but you may use
more or fewer.	
WHEREFORE , <i>Plaintiff(s)</i> dem	and judgment against <i>Defendant(s)</i> for all
	er relief the Court may deem appropriate.
	Your Signature
	Print Your Name
	Print Your Address
	Your Daytime Telephone

Date: _____

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE SAMPLE ANSWER FORM

Name(s) of Plaintiff(s) (**),)
Plaintiff(s), v.))) C.A. No. <u>Number assigned to the case by</u>
Name(s) of Defendant(s) (**),	the Court when it was first filed))
Defendant(s).)
ANSWER	OF DEFENDANT
should use the type of response th	nit or deny. of different responses that can be used. You at is appropriate for the allegations in the e numbered responses, but you only need the
	Your Signature Print Your Name Print Your Address
Dated:	Your Daytime Telephone

SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT (CIS)

OUNTY: N K S	CIVIL ACTION NUMBER:
Caption:	Civil Case Code: Civil Case Type: (SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR CODE AND TYPE) MANDATORY NON-BINDING ARBITRATION (MNA) Name and Status of Party filing document:
	Document Type:(E.G.; Complaint;Answer with counterclaim)
	JURY DEMAND: YES NO
ATTORNEY NAME(S): ATTORNEY ID(S):	IDENTIFY ANY RELATED CASES NOW PENDING IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OR ANY RELATED CASES THAT HAVE BEEN CLOSED IN THIS COURT WITHIN THE LAST TWO YEARS BY CAPTION AND CIVIL ACTION NUMBER INCLUDING JUDGE'S INITIALS:
FIRM NAME:	
Address:	EXPLAIN THE RELATIONSHIP(S):
TELEPHONE NUMBER:	
FAX NUMBER:	OTHER UNUSUAL ISSUES THAT AFFECT CASE MANAGEMENT:
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	
	(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, PLEASE ATTACH PAGE)

THE PROTHONOTARY WILL NOT PROCESS THE COMPLAINT, ANSWER, OR FIRST RESPONSIVE PLEADING IN THIS MATTER FOR SERVICE UNTIL THE CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT (CIS) IS FILED. THE FAILURE TO FILE THE CIS AND HAVE THE PLEADING PROCESSED FOR SERVICE MAY RESULT IN THE DISMISSAL OF THE COMPLAINT OR MAY RESULT IN THE ANSWER OR FIRST RESPONSIVE PLEADING BEING STRICKEN.

SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT (CIS) **INSTRUCTIONS**

CIVIL CASE TYPE

Please select the appropriate civil case code and case type (e.g., CODE - AADM and TYPE - Administrative Agency) from the list below. Enter this information in the designated spaces on the Case Information Statement.

APPEALS

AADM - Administrative Agency

ACER - Certiorari

ACCP - Court of Common Pleas AIAB - Industrial Accident Board APSC - Public Service Commission

AUIB - Unemployment Insurance Appeal Board

COMPLAINTS

CABT - Abatement

CASB - Asbestos

CAAA - Auto Arb Appeal

CMIS - Civil Miscellaneous

CACT - Class Action

CCON - Condemnation

CCLD - Complex Commercial Litigation Division (NCC ONLY)

CDBT - Debt/Breach of Contract

CDEJ - Declaratory Judgment

CDEF - Defamation

CEJM - Ejectment CATT - Foreign & Domestic Attachment

CFJG - Foreign Judgment

CFRD - Fraud Enforcement

CINT - Interpleader

CLEM - Lemon Law

CLIB - Libel

CMAL - Malpractice

CMED - Medical Malpractice

CPIN - Personal Injury

CPIA - Personal Injury Auto

CPRL - Products Liability

CPRD - Property Damage

CRPV - Replevin

CSPD - Summary Proceedings Dispute

CCCP - Transfer from CCP

CCHA - Transfer from Chancery

MASS TORT

CABI - Abilify Cases

CBEN - Benzene Cases

CPEL - Pelvic Mesh Cases

CPLX - Plavix Cases

CPPI - PPI Cases

CTAL - Talc Cases

CTAX - Taxotere Cases

CXAR - Xarelto Cases

MISCELLANEOUS

MAGM - AG Motion - Civil/Criminal Investigations *

MADB - Appeal from Disability Board *

MAFF - Application for Forfeiture

MAAT - Appointment of Attorney

MGAR - Appointment of Guardianship

MCED - Cease and Desist Order

MCON - Civil Contempt/Capias

MCVP - Civil Penalty

MSOJ - Compel Satisfaction of Judgment

MSAM - Compel Satisfaction of Mortgage

MCTO - Consent Order

MIND - Destruction of Indicia of Arrest *

MESP - Excess Sheriff Proceeds

MHAC - Habeas Corpus

MTOX - Hazardous Substance Cleanup

MFOR - Intercept of Forfeited Money

MISS - Issuance of Subpoena

MLEX - Lien Extension

MMAN - Mandamus

MWIT - Material Witness *

MWOT - Material Witness - Out of State

MRAT - Motion for Risk Assessment

MROP - Petition for Return of Property

MCRO - Petition Requesting Order

MROD - Road Resolution

MSEL - Sell Real Estate for Property Tax

MSEM - Set Aside Satisfaction of Mortgage

MSSS - Set Aside Sheriff's Sale

MSET - Structured Settlement

MTAX - Tax Ditches

MREF - Tax Intercept

MLAG - Tax Lagoons

MVAC - Vacate Public Road

MPOS - Writ of Possession

MPRO - Writ of Prohibition

MORTGAGES

MCOM - Mortgage Commercial

MMED - Mortgage Mediation

MORT - Mortgage Non-Mediation (Res.)

MECHANICS LIENS

LIEN - Mechanics Lien

INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS

INVC- Involuntary Commitment

* Not eFiled

DUTY OF THE PLAINTIFF

Each plaintiff/counsel shall complete the attached Civil Case Information Statement (CIS) and file with the complaint.

DUTY OF THE DEFENDANT

Each defendant/counsel shall complete the attached Civil Case Information Statement (CIS) and file with the answer and/or first responsive pleading.

Revised 08/2018

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE HOW TO PREPARE A CIVIL MOTION

A motion is a petition for some type of relief, or some action, you ask the Court to grant you; it also may be a request for the Court to take notice of certain facts. A sample motion is attached.

There are several documents that you must prepare when filing a motion. They are:

1) Notice of Motion

The notice advises the other party that a motion will be filed, what it will be about, what facts will be offered, and when it will be presented to the Court. This gives the other side the opportunity to prepare a response. It also advises the Court and the other party of the date and time the motion will be heard.

2) The Motion

The actual body of the motion states your request and explains the reasons for making the request. As some motions may require affidavits, please refer to the Superior Court Civil Procedure Rules found in the Delaware Code Annotated, which is available at any law library or public library.

3) Proposed Order

The proposed order is a document to be signed by the judge granting the request made in the motion. You must prepare it in advance so the judge can sign it, if the motion is granted.

4) Certificate of Service

This is a notarized document; it states that you did notify the other party of your intent to file a motion and that you did provide the other party with copies of all the documents you are filing.

As Needed/Optional:

5) Exhibits

Exhibits may be any item or evidence that supports your position. These may be contracts, letters, photographs, receipts, etc.

To file a motion, you will need to file one original set and one copy of all the required documents listed above. In addition, you must provide two copies of all the documents to the other party. Keep a copy for your file.

- You must arrange to copy all these documents, as the Court is unable to make copies for you.
- The Court is <u>unable</u> to provide you with legal advice. If you require further clarification to prepare your motion, you may contact the Legal Help Link at (302) 478-8850 (New Castle County).

- Dispositive motions (motions that, if granted, would conclude the case) must be filed with the Court at least ten (10) days (excluding weekends and holidays) before the hearing is scheduled to be heard, and should not exceed 6 pages in length unless permission has previously been given to exceed page limit.
- Non-dispositive motions (motions that, if granted, would not conclude the case) must be filed with the Court at least ten (10) days (excluding weekends and holidays) before the hearing is scheduled to be heard.
- Civil cases will be scheduled for trial in the FIRST and THIRD quarters of each calendar year. Trial Scheduling Orders establish firm deadlines. Failure to meet deadlines, without good cause, may result in the Court's refusal to allow extension. Please use the Stipulate Amended TSO form (which can be found here: https://courts.delaware.gov/superior/judgespref/judges_pref_jrocanelli.aspx) for any stipulations/proposed orders to amend the Trial Scheduling Order, including the current date for each event and the proposed date for each event whether or not the proposed order anticipates amendment of each date. The new TSO should include all dates for easy reference.

CAPTION INFORMATION

The following is the Caption portion of any pleading* presented to the Court. It does not change unless the case changes. Therefore, for any motion pertaining to an ongoing case, always use the <u>same caption</u> for the motion itself and each of its required components (Notice, the Motion, Order and Certificate of Services.)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

Name(s) of Plaintiff(s) (**),)
Plaintiff(s),))
v.) C.A. No. <u>Number assigned to the case by</u>) the Court when it was first filed
Name(s) of Defendant(s) (**),)))
Defendant(s).)

TITLE OF THE MOTION

(See attached sample)

^{*}A "pleading" is part of a series of statements and answers, or counter-statements, made by the various parties to a lawsuit; these documents follow a specific format. For example, the initial complaint in a case is a pleading; the answer filed by the other side is also a pleading.

^{**}If several names are listed for Plaintiffs and/or Defendants, you must use the name listed first on the original pleading in the Plaintiff space and in the Defendant space, but you may add *et al.* instead of copying all the other names. For example, if John Doe, Jane Smith, Dr. Harry Brown, XYZ Hospital and ABC Company are all listed as Defendants on the first complaint, in subsequent documents, such as your motion, you can write: John Doe, *et al.*, Defendants.

SAMPLE MOTION

Plaintiff(s), v.)))) C.A. No
Defendant(s).)
<u>N</u>	OTICE OF MOTION
TO: Name of Individual/Firm Street Address Town, State, Zip Code	L
	the attached Motion will be presented to the Court by (t) on (date)* at (time)* or at the convenience of the
	Your Signature Print Your Name Print Your Address
	Your Daytime Telephone
Dated:*Please contact Brittany Butler motion to be heard	(302-255-0787) to request a date and time for your

,)
Plaintiff(s), v.)) C.A. No
Defendant(s).))
TITLE	E OF THE MOTION
	tiff/Defendant), acting on (his/her) own behalf, rt to enter an Order tot:
1. On (date), briefly descr	ibe the background of the case leading to your
motion.	
2. Briefly state other facts	s that help describe the situation using short,
numbered paragraphs.	This sample has three numbered paragraphs, but
you may use more or few	ver.
3. Additional statements of	fact, reasons, or rules why the Court should grant
your request. *	
	fendant) respectfully requests the Court enter an in favor of Your Signature
	Print Your Name
	Print Your Address
	Your Daytime Telephone

^{*}You may support your request by referring to the Superior Court Civil Procedure Rules, which may be found in the Delaware Code Annotated. The Delaware Code Annotated and other resources to research legal decisions are available in any law library or public library.

Plaintiff(s), v. Defendant(s).))) C.A. No))
	<u>ORDER</u>
	(explain the relief you are requesting from the on is for a judgment, the specific dollar amount
IT IS SO ORDERED.	

)
Plaintiff(s), v.)) C.A. No
Defendant(s).))
CERTI	FICATE OF SERVICE
Motion, Motion, and Order were	ertify that two (2) copies of the attached Notice of (hand-delivered/emailed) to (name and address of motion is hand-delivered/emailed), this
*	
(Notary signature and seal)	
	Your Signature
	Print Your Name
	Print Your Address
	Your Daytime Telephone
Dated:	

*Individuals are required to sign the Certificate of Service in front of Notary Public and have the Certificate notarized. Some Notaries Public are listed in the telephone book; certain officers of banks are Notaries and will witness your signature at no charge; also, many companies have someone in their business offices who is a Notary.

MOTIONS FREQUENTLY FILED WITH THE COURT

Motion to Amend the Complaint – A party's request that the Court permit the party to change a Complaint previously filed with the Court.

Motion to Compel Discovery – A party's request that the Court order the party's opponent to respond to the party's discovery request. Discovery in a lawsuit is a way to learn more about your opponent's case.

Motion to Default Judgment – A request by the plaintiff that the Court enter a judgement against a defendant who has failed to file a pleading or otherwise defend against a plaintiff's claim.

Motion to Dismiss – A party's request that the Court dismiss a case because of settlement, voluntary withdrawal, or a procedural defect.

Motion for Enlargement of Time – A party's request that the Court extend the time allowed to respond or to perform an action.

Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings – A party's request that the Court rule in its favor based on the pleadings filed with the Court, without accepting any evidence, because the outcome of the case is based on the Court's interpretation of the law.

Motion to Vacate Judgment – A party's request that the Court cancel or invalidate a judgment.

Motion for a More Definite Statement – A party's request that the Court require an opponent to change a vague or ambiguous pleading to which the party is unable to adequately respond.

Samples of these Motions are attached. Each Motion must have a Notice of Motion, an Order and a Certificate of Service attached.

Plaintiff(s), v.)))) C.A. No
Defendant(s).)
MOTION T	TO AMEND COMPLAINT
	acting on (his/her) own behalf, hereby moves this to Amend the Complaint and offers in support the
1. On (date), briefly describe t	the background of the case leading to your motion.
2. Briefly state other facts that	thelp describe the situation using short, numbered
paragraphs. This sample h more or fewer.	has three numbered paragraphs, but you may use
3. State facts or rules why the	Court should grant your request. *
WHEREFORE, (<i>Plaintiff</i>) res Amend the Complaint as follows:	spectfully requests that the Court enter an Order to
(List the amendment(s) to the	he Complaint)
	Your Signature
	Print Your Name
	Print Your Address
	Your Daytime Telephone
Dated:	

^{*}You may support your request by referring to the Superior Court Civil Procedure Rules, which may be found in the Delaware Code Annotated. The Delaware Code Annotated and other resources to research legal decisions are available in any law library or public library.

IN THE SOI ERIOR COC	XI OF THE STATE OF BEEN WINE
Plaintiff(s), v.))) C.A. No))
Defendant(s).)
<u>MO</u>	TION TO COMPEL
	riff/Defendant), acting on (his/her) own behalf, art to enter an Order to Compel (state what you ers in support the following:
1. On (date), briefly state w	hat was requested and how the request was made.
2. Briefly state other facts	s that help describe the situation using short,
numbered paragraphs. To you may use more or few	This sample has three numbered paragraphs, but $_{ m cer}$ *
	lividual/firm) has not responded.
	Defendant) respectfully requests that the Court Defendant) to provide full and complete responses
	Your Signature
	Print Your Address
	Print Your Address
	Your Daytime Telephone
Dated:	

^{*}You may support your request by referring to the Superior Court Civil Procedure Rules, which may be found in the Delaware Code Annotated. The Delaware Code Annotated and other resources to research legal decisions are available in any law library or public library.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE Plaintiff(s), C.A. No. Defendant(s). MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT COMES NOW the (Plaintiff), acting on (his/her) own behalf, hereby moves this Honorable Court to enter an Order for Default Judgment and offers in support the following: 1. *On (date), briefly describe the background of the case leading to your motion.* 2. Briefly state other facts that help describe the situation using short, numbered paragraphs. This sample has three numbered paragraphs, but you may use more or fewer. 3. Additional statements of fact, reasons, or rules why the Court should grant your request. * WHEREFORE, (Plaintiff) respectfully requests that the Court enter an Order granting Judgment in favor of (*Plaintiff*). Your Signature _____ Print Your Name

Dated:

Print Your Address _____

Your Daytime Telephone_____

^{*}You may support your request by referring to the Superior Court Civil Procedure Rules, which may be found in the Delaware Code Annotated. The Delaware Code Annotated and other resources to research legal decisions are available in any law library or public library.

IN THE SUPERIOR C	OURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE
Plaintiff(s), v.))) C.A. No
Defendant(s).)))
<u> </u>	MOTION TO DISMISS
,	nintiff/Defendant), acting on (his/her) own behalf, burt to enter an Order to Dismiss (state what you wish in support the following:
1. On (date), briefly des	scribe the background of the case leading to your
, ,	acts that help describe the situation using short, s. This sample has three numbered paragraphs, but
·	of fact, reasons, or rules why the Court should grant
	tiff/Defendant) respectfully requests that the Court the action and assessing costs and fees to
	Your Signature
	Print Your Name
	Print Your Address
	Your Daytime Telephone
Dated:	

^{*}You may support your request by referring to the Superior Court Civil Procedure Rules, which may be found in the Delaware Code Annotated. The Delaware Code Annotated and other resources to research legal decisions are available in any law library or public library.

I	N THE SUPERIO	OR COURT	OF THE STATE	OF DELAWA	RE
	Plaintiff(s),	,) v.)	C.A. No		
	Defendant(s)	.)))		
	<u>MO</u> 7	TION FOR E	NLARGEMENT	OF TIME	
moves t		ırt to enlarge t	(ant), acting on (hi		
1. <i>O</i>	n (date), briefly de	escribe the ba	ckground of the ca	se leading to yoi	ır motion.
pe		•	describe the situat ree numbered pard	· ·	
	dditional statemer our request. *	nts of fact, red	asons, or rules wh	y the Court sho	uld grant
WH	EREFORE, (<i>Plai</i> Order	intiff/Defendar to	nt) respectfully rec	quests that the C	ourt enter for
				·	
			<u>Your Signa</u>	ture	
			Print Your		
			<u>Print Your I</u>	Address	
			Your Daytir	ne Telephone_	
Dated: _					

^{*}You may support your request by referring to the Superior Court Civil Procedure Rules, which may be found in the Delaware Code Annotated. The Delaware Code Annotated and other resources to research legal decisions are available in any law library or public library.

IN THE SUPERIOR COU	URT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE)
Plaintiff(s), v.)) C.A. No
Defendant(s).))
MOTION FOR.	JUDGMENT ON THE PLEADINGS
 moves this Honorable Cour (Plaintiff's/Defendant's) favor and On (date), briefly describe to Briefly state other facts that paragraphs. This sample has more or fewer. State facts or rules why the 	d offers in support the following: the background of the case leading to your motion. thelp describe the situation using short, numbered that three numbered paragraphs, but you may use Court should grant your request. *
WHEREFORE, (<i>Plaintiff/Dej</i> Judgment on the Pleadings in favo	fendant) respectfully requests that the Court enter or of (<i>Plaintiff/Defendant</i>).
	Your Signature
	Print Your Address
	Print Your Address
	Your Daytime Telephone_

Dated: _____

^{*}You may support your request by referring to the Superior Court Civil Procedure Rules, which may be found in the Delaware Code Annotated. The Delaware Code Annotated and other resources to research legal decisions are available in any law library and public library. This motion must be filed within ten (10) days after the event and shall be noticed at the convenience of the Court.

DELAWARE
own behalf, hereby lgment and offers in ading to your motion. sing short, numbered ohs, but you may use uest. *
s that the Court enter
ρ
ess
elephone
Igmadin sing ohs, uest the

^{*}You may support your request by referring to the Superior Court Civil Procedure Rules, which may be found in the Delaware Code Annotated. The Delaware Code Annotated and other resources to research legal decisions are available in any law library or public library.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE Plaintiff(s),) C.A. No. _____ Defendant(s). MOTION FOR A MORE DEFINITE STATEMENT COMES NOW the (*Plaintiff/Defendant*), acting on (*his/her*) own behalf, hereby moves this Honorable Court enter an Order requiring (Plaintiff/Defendant) file a more definite statement and offers in support the following: 1. *On (date), briefly describe the background of the case leading to your motion.* 2. Briefly state other facts that help describe the situation using short, numbered paragraphs. This sample has three numbered paragraphs, but you may use as many as you need. 3. State facts or rules why the Court should grant your request. * **WHEREFORE**, (*Plaintiff/Defendant*) respectfully requests that the Court order (*Plaintiff/Defendant*) to file a more definite statement. Your Signature _____ Print Your Name_____ Print Your Address

Dated:

Your Daytime Telephone____

^{*}You may support your request by referring to the Superior Court Civil Procedure Rules, which may be found in the Delaware Code Annotated. The Delaware Code Annotated and other resources to research legal decisions are available in any law library or public library.