

Complaint - A complaint is any formal legal document that sets out the facts and legal reasons that the filing party or parties [of a civil lawsuit] believes are sufficient to support a claim against the party or parties against whom the claim is brought that entitles the plaintiff to a remedy.

Motion - A motion is a formal request made by any party for a desired ruling, order, or judgment. The party that makes the motion is known as the movant. A motion can be written or spoken, as the relevant rules require. Various motions can be made throughout a proceeding, but only after the initial complaint has been filed.

Claim – A claim is a formal (legal) demand for compensation from a wrong or injury suffered.

Relief - The redress or assistance that a party seeks from a court. Essentially synonymous with remedy, but sometimes meant to convey a broader concept.

Plaintiff - A plaintiff is the party who initiates a (civil) lawsuit before a court. By doing so, the plaintiff seeks a legal remedy. If this search is successful, the court will issue judgment in favor of the plaintiff and make the appropriate court order.

Defendant - In court proceedings, a defendant is a person or object who is the party either accused of committing a crime in criminal prosecution or against whom some type of civil relief is being sought in a civil case.

Parties - A party is a person or entity who takes part in a legal transaction, for example a person with an immediate interest in an agreement or deed, or a plaintiff or a defendant in a lawsuit. A “third party” is a person who is a stranger to a transaction, contract, or proceeding.

Joinder - the joining together of several lawsuits or several parties all in one lawsuit, provided that the legal issues and the factual situation are the same for all plaintiffs and defendants.

Sever - Concerning civil procedure, the separation by the court of multiple claims or parties to try each in a separate action, as in misjoinder of parties, severance of actions or severance of claims.

Federal rules of civil procedure – FRCP govern civil proceedings in the United States district courts. Their purpose is "to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action and proceeding." Fed. R. Civ. P. 1. The rules were first adopted by order of the Supreme Court on December 20, 1937, transmitted to Congress on January 3, 1938, and effective September 16, 1938. The Civil Rules were last amended in 2022.

Element - An element is an essential requirement to make a claim or defense in court, as in elements of a civil action or a criminal action. For example, one element of negligence is the existence of a legal duty that the defendant owed to the plaintiff.

Factor - A factor is a cause or reason that contributes to a result.

Prejudice – disadvantage or preconceived opinion.

Liable - responsible or answerable in law; legally obligated.