



Video Chapters

This video will guide you through the Small Claims process and give you important information to help you resolve your case. The instructional video includes narrations and subtitles in English, Spanish, and Russian.

Chapter One:

Introduction to the Court

Chapter Two:

The Small Claims Process

Chapter Three:

Mediation Services

Chapter Four:

The Small Claims Court Advisory Services

Chapter Five:

Services at the Sacramento Superior Court

Chapter Six:

Conclusion and Resources

This video is available at your local courthouse, or it can be viewed on-line at:

saccourt.ca.gov/small-claims/resolving-small-claims-cases.aspx

If your organization would like a copy of this video, please contact the court.

Free assistance is available to help you with your Small Claims case. The Carol Miller Justice Center has Small Claims advisory services available. Advisors can cover the information seen in the video and printed in this brochure in greater detail. They can help you with your case.

For more information contact your local Small Claims court.



Sacramento Superior Court

On the Web at:

saccourt.ca.gov

**Carol Miller Justice Center
Small Claims Unit
301 Bicentennial Circle
Sacramento, CA 95826**

**Small Claims Unit:
(916) 875 - 7514**

**Small Claims Advisors:
(916) 875 - 7846**

This project was a collaborative effort between the Superior Courts of Monterey, Sacramento, Solano, and Stanislaus Counties. It was made possible by a grant from the Judicial Council of California Administrative Office of the Courts. For more information, please visit their website at:

www.courts.ca.gov/programs



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

Resolving Your Small Claims Case in Sacramento County



A companion reference guide
for the instructional video

Sacramento Superior Court



Useful Links and Information

General Information

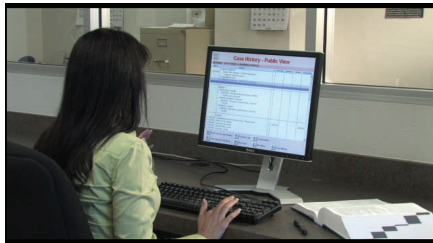
The information below can help you to learn more about your Small Claims Case:

You can find out about the Small Claims advisory services available in every county by asking your local court or law library, or by visiting:

www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp

You can find the forms you need to fill out and file with the court at:

www.courts.ca.gov/forms



Local Assistance is Available

The Sacramento Superior Court's website provides additional information and resources, including the up-to-date contact information and business hours for the Small Claims Advisory and Mediation Clinic. To find out more, please visit:

saccourt.ca.gov

The Regional Human Rights/Fair Housing Commission's website is another great resource. Please visit their site at:

www.hrfh.org

Video Overview

Your Small Claims Case

Small Claims courts deal with many types of cases involving \$7,500 or less. For example, you can have a Small Claims case about damage to property, security deposits, or disputes about a payment for services provided.

Our instructional DVD entitled, "Resolving Your Small Claims Case in Sacramento County" is offered in English, Spanish and Russian. It will help you understand the Small Claims process. You will learn about:

- The basic process of a Small Claims case
- Finding the correct forms to file and how to get help filling them out
- Filing forms and paying fees
- What to expect when you go to court and what happens after your hearing
- The Small Claims advisory services available at the Sacramento Superior Court
- Other resources and organizations that can assist you in your Small Claims case
- The benefits of mediation as an alternative to going to court

Because the Small Claims process can be complicated, in addition to watching the instructional DVD, we urge you to talk to your Small Claims advisor. Contact information can be found on the court's website at saccourt.ca.gov.

The Benefits of Mediation

Our instructional DVD will explain why mediation can be a great alternative for resolving your Small Claims dispute.

What Is Mediation?

Mediation is where you and the other party meet with a neutral person, called a mediator.

A Mediator is

specially trained to

help people resolve their disputes without needing to go in front of a judge. In mediation, everyone works together to find a solution, instead of having the judge make a decision.

When Should I Consider Mediation?

You can go to mediation any time. If you are having difficulty resolving a dispute with a person or business, you can suggest mediation to the other party. When doing so, it may help to give the other party information about mediation.

What is the Role of the Mediator?

The mediator is trained and skilled in helping people examine their situation in terms of their needs and interests. The mediator will not force you to reach an agreement. Whether you decide to resolve your dispute, and how you resolve it, is up to you. If you cannot settle, you can still have a judge decide your case. There is nothing to lose by trying mediation, and there is much to gain.

