

Information for Suing Someone in Small Claims

This information sheet is intended for those seeking to sue in small claims court. It explains rules and general information pertaining to small claims proceedings at North Las Vegas Justice Court.

WHAT IS SMALL CLAIMS COURT?

Small Claims Court is a special court where lawsuits for \$10,000 or less are decided (NRS 73.010). You must be at least 18 years of age to file a small claims case. The person filing the suit is referred to as the plaintiff. The person being sued is the defendant.

IS NORTH LAS VEGAS JUSTICE COURT THE CORRECT VENUE?

You may file your small claims case in North Las Vegas Justice Court if:

- the defendant currently lives, works or does business within the NLV Township;
- the defendant lived, worked or did business within NLV Township at the time of the incident for which you are suing;
- the case involves injury to person or property where the injury occurred in NLV Township; and/or
- the contractual obligation was to be performed, or is supposed to be performed, in NLV Township.

If you are not sure which township is the correct one, you may enter the defendant's address at the online jurisdiction finder at

<http://gisgate.co.clark.nv.us/gismo/apps/jurisdiction/app/> or call Clark County Business License, at 702-455-4252.

WHAT ARE THE BASIC STEPS TO FILE A SMALL CLAIMS SUIT?

1. **Send a formal demand letter.** You must send a formal written demand for payment to the defendant via certified mail with a return receipt requested before you may file a small claims case. The letter must state the exact amount you are seeking and why you believe you are entitled to it. You must state in the letter that you intend to file an

action in Small Claims Court if the matter is not resolved within **10** business days. Send separate demand letters to each person or business you plan to sue. Keep a copy of the demand letter(s), the certified mail receipt(s) and the return receipt postcard(s) to file with the court.

If the defendant is a business, the business must be named and the claim served on the corporate officer or the resident agent. Information may be obtained from the Secretary of State website at <https://esos.nv.gov/EntitySearch/OnlineEntitySearch>

2. **Wait at least 15 days* after mailing the formal demand letter and then file the required forms with the court.** The following forms need to be included in your filing:

- **Affidavit of Complaint** that is typed or written legibly in blue or black ink and make three additional copies of; and one original **Affidavit of Service**
- Copy of the **formal demand letter**;
- Proof of mailing of the demand letter;
- Certified Return receipt postcard; and
- Filing fee.

3. **Serve the Affidavit of Complaint.** After you receive a copy of the Affidavit of Complaint with a court date, a copy must be delivered to each defendant. This is called "service of process". It is good practice to serve the defendant(s) immediately after filing the Complaint, however, it must be served at least **15 days** prior to the court date. Service of process may be performed by the Constable (702) 455-7800, Sheriff, a private process server or a person who is NOT a party in the lawsuit and who is over the age of 18. If you ask someone other than the Constable, Sheriff or a licensed process server,

*If the demand letter was returned and marked as "refused" or "unclaimed, you may proceed without waiting 15 days or more.

*If filing by U.S. Mail: use a 9" x 12" envelope for mailing. You are required to include a self-addressed stamped legal-size envelope in order to mail your receipt and file stamped documents.

that person cannot accept compensation for serving the documents and cannot serve as the processer more than three times in a calendar year.

4. **File the Affidavit of Service with the court at least 10 days before the court date.** The Affidavit of Service form demonstrates to the court that the defendant was properly served. Failing to file the Affidavit of Service at least 10 days before the court date will result in the case being taken off calendar.
5. **Prepare for trial.** Organize and clearly mark evidence, receipts and books that you feel are necessary to prove your case. Bring at least three copies of any evidence that you wish to present to the court (one for you, one for the judge and one for the defendant). Print out text messages and copies of emails. Do not expect the judge to read messages from your cell phone.
6. **Confirm the court date and time.** The court assigns a court date at the time the claim is filed. The date, however, is tentative. Contact the court at least one day prior to the assigned court date to confirm date and time.

HOW DO I REQUEST A COURT TRANSCRIPT OR DVD AFTER HEARING?

North Las Vegas Justice Court provides DVDs of court proceedings for a \$25.00 fee. You must complete a REQUEST FOR TRANSCRIPT or DVD OF PROCEEDINGS form and submit with your payment. Please allow a minimum of 3 business days for production of DVD.

If you wish to file an appeal in District Court, a typed transcript of proceedings is required, at a cost of \$40, plus a minimum fee of \$3.80 per page (expedited transcripts will cost more per page - see request form for pricing). You will be responsible for all costs associated with preparing transcripts - a \$100 deposit is required to start the process. Upon completion, a balance may be due, or you may receive a partial refund of your deposit. Refund checks may take 2 - 3 weeks to be processed.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER JUDGMENT?

The court may order one party to pay money to the other party. The party who wins the case, and is owed the money, is called the judgment creditor. The party who loses the case, and owes the money, is called the judgment debtor. It is up to the judgment creditor (not the court) to collect from the judgment debtor.

If the judgment debtor does not voluntarily pay the judgment, the judgment creditor can collect money from the judgment debtor involuntarily. This is called “executing” the judgment. It is the judgment creditor’s responsibility to investigate the defendant’s place of employment, real property, bank account, etc. to ensure that the judgment is collectible.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

North Las Vegas Justice Court
2428 N. Martin L. King Blvd., Building A
North Las Vegas, NV 89032

Contact NLV Civil Department (702) 455-7801
regarding general procedural questions only.

HOW MUCH IS THE FILING FEE?

FILING FEE	AMOUNT OF CLAIM
\$66.00	If the sum claimed does not exceed \$1,000.00
\$86.00	If the sum claimed exceeds \$1,000.00 but does not exceed \$2,500.00
\$106.00	If the sum claimed exceeds \$2,500.00 but does not exceed \$5,000.00
\$146.00	If the sum claimed exceeds \$5,000.00 but does not exceed \$7,500.00
\$196.00	If the sum claimed exceeds \$7,500.00 but does not exceed \$10,000.00

Acceptable methods of payment: Cash * Cashier's Check * Money Order * Business Check * ATM Debit Card * Credit Card (Mastercard or Visa)

JUSTICE COURT, NORTH LAS VEGAS TOWNSHIP

Clark County Nevada

NAME: _____)
STREET ADDRESS: _____)
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: _____)

PLAINTIFF, _____)

VS. _____)

CASE NO.: _____

DEPT NO.: _____

NAME: _____)
STREET ADDRESS: _____)
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: _____)

DEFENDANT, _____)

FOR COURT USE ONLY

**AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLAINT
SMALL CLAIMS**

STATE OF NEVADA)

COUNTY OF CLARK)

_____, being duly sworn, state: that the Defendant owes the Plaintiff the sum of \$_____ for

that demand for payment has been made; the Defendant refuses to pay; that the Defendant either resides, works, or does business in the North Las Vegas Township, County of Clark, State of Nevada; or the injury that was committed or the obligation to be performed occurred in the North Las Vegas Township.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this

_____ day of _____, 20_____

PLAINTIFF

Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____ Email : _____

Date: _____

NOTARY PUBLIC **OR** ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PER NRS 53.045

a) If executed in this state (Nevada): "I declare under penalty of perjury that the forgoing is true and correct."

Executed on _____
(DATE)

SIGNATURE

b) If executed outside this state (Nevada): "I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the State of Nevada that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed on _____
(DATE)

SIGNATURE

SUMMONS & ORDER TO APPEAR:

NOTICE: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. THE COURT MAY DECIDE AGAINST YOU WITHOUT YOU BEING HEARD UNLESS YOU APPEAR AS FOLLOWS:

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear for trial on the Plaintiff's claim at the Justice Court, North Las Vegas Township located at: **2428 North Martin Luther King Blvd., NLV NV 89032, Department: _____, on _____, 20_____ at the hour of _____ PM** and present any defense you may have. You are further notified that in the event you do not appear; a Default Judgment will be issued against you in the amount claimed by the Plaintiff, which may result in the garnishment of wages and the seizure of property. **PLEASE BRING WITH YOU ALL WITNESSES, AN ORIGINAL AND 2 COPIES OF ANY EVIDENCE, RECEIPTS OR BOOK NECESSARY TO PROVE YOUR CASE.**

APPROPRIATE COURTROOM ATTIRE IS REQUIRED. NO FOOD OR DRINK IS PERMITTED.

JUSTICE COURT, NORTH LAS VEGAS TOWNSHIP

Clark County Nevada

**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE
SMALL CLAIMS**

FOR COURT USE ONLY

STATE OF NEVADA)
) ss
COUNTY OF CLARK)

CASE NUMBER: _____

DEPARTMENT: _____

HEARING DATE / TIME: _____ **AT:** _____ **PM**

_____, being duly sworn, states: that at all times herein affiant was and is a citizen of the United States, over 18 years of age, not a party to or interested in the proceedings in which this affidavit is made. That Affiant received a copy of the Affidavit of Complaint and Summons and Order to Appear on _____ day of _____, and served the same documents on this _____ day of _____, 20_____ by:

(AFFIANT MUST COMPLETE THE APPROPRIATE PARAGRAPH.)

1. Delivering and leaving a copy with the Defendant _____ at: (insert address) _____
2. Serving the Defendant _____ by personally delivering and leaving a copy with _____, a person of suitable age and discretion residing at the Defendant's usual place of above located at: (insert address) _____
3. **You must obtain an Order from the Judge prior to service by mail of an Affidavit or Complaint.** Personally depositing a copy in a mailbox of the United States Post Office, enclosed in a sealed envelope, postage prepaid (*check appropriate method*):

_____ Certified mail, return receipt requested _____ Registered mail, return receipt requested
addressed to the Defendant _____ at Defendant's last known address which is:
(*insert address*) _____ (For valid service by mail, a copy of the Certificate of Mailing or Return Receipt must be attached hereto).

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this

_____ day of _____, _____

Signature Of Person Executing Service

NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said County and State

Phone Number: _____

Date: _____

Pursuant to NRS 53.045, I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the State of Nevada that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in the State of Nevada, County of Clark.

(Date)

(Signature Of Person Executing Service)

(Phone Number)

(PRINTED NAME OF PERSON EXECUTING SERVICE)