

1	The intent of a civil suit is to pay an injured party	11
2	for a loss. The civil suit commences with the serving of a	23
3	summons and a complaint on the defendant. In a civil suit,	35
4	the complaint is the first of many required legal papers.	47
5	These papers, in which the facts of the case are presented,	59
6	are called pleadings. Pleadings must be set up to conform	71
7	exactly to the specific guidelines of state statutes and of	83
8	individual jurisdictions.	88
9	The original copy of each pleading is filed in court.	99
10	Each pleading is organized by the court clerk for public	110
11	reference. The defendant's attorney is also served a copy	122
12	of each pleading.	125
13	The attorney for the defendant files an answer to the	136
14	the statements listed in the complaint. When a summons is	148
15	served without a complaint, the defendant's attorney files	160
16	a notice of appearance as the response. A counterclaim is	172
17	a response that claims damages inflicted by the plaintiff	184
18	on the defendant, and it may also be filed by the defense.	196
19	The attorney for the plaintiff files a reply to deny the	207
20	facts of the counterclaim. After the first pleading, the	218
21	complaint is verified.	223
22	The legal proceedings that occur before, during, and	234
23	after civil cases may include many variations. The party	245
24	that requests a trial in court must serve a notice of trial	257
25	on the opposing lawyer. A judge, or a judge and jury, will	269
26	hear both parties and their witnesses in court, and the	280
27	appropriate jurisdiction will be determined. Alternatively,	292
28	some cases may be settled out of court.	300

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