

Getting Started

Answer/Response to Complaint/Petition

IMPORTANT: This getting started guide and the instructions are not legal advice. They are only meant to help you learn how to use the *Answer/Response to Complaint/Petition* form in your case. Your use of this form does not guarantee you will be successful in court.

To learn how to fill out the form and file it with the court, read the *How to Prepare and Send an Answer/Response to Complaint/Petition* instruction sheet and the instructions on the form.

Name of the form:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Answer/Response to Complaint/Petition</i>• <i>Additional Paragraphs for Answer/Response to Complaint/Petition</i> (if needed)
Purpose of the form:	Use this form to respond to the claims that the Plaintiff/Petitioner made in the Complaint/Petition. The <i>Answer/Response to Complaint/Petition</i> is where you say whether you agree or disagree with what the Plaintiff/Petitioner is claiming.
Types of cases the form CAN be used for:	All civil cases that do not have their own specialized answer forms. For example, you would use this <i>Answer/Response to Complaint/Petition</i> in civil cases like family law, lawsuits for injury or property damage, or debt collection cases. But if you are involved in mortgage foreclosure, you should use the <i>Mortgage Foreclosure Appearance and Answer</i> form. Check illinoiscourts.gov/documents-and-forms/approved-forms for a list of approved answer forms by case type.
Types of cases the form CANNOT be used for:	All criminal, traffic, and juvenile justice cases.
Cost to File the form:	There is a fee for filing. If you cannot afford to pay the filing fee, you can ask the court to file for free by filing the <i>Application for Waiver of Court Fees</i> found at: illinoiscourts.gov/documents-and-forms/approved-forms
Special information or papers needed to complete the form:	You will also need to know <i>How to File an Appearance</i> because the <i>Answer/Response to Complaint/Petition</i> is usually due when you file your <i>Appearance</i> .
Statutes covering the form:	Illinois Supreme Court Rules : 13, 101, 104, 131, 136, 137, 138, 181, 183, 281, 286. Illinois Statute: 735 ILCS 5/2-601 et seq ; 735 ILCS 5/9-106.2 ; 735 ILCS 5/2-301 ; 735 ILCS 5/2-615 ; 735 ILCS 5/2-619
Where to find the form and instruction sheet:	illinoiscourts.gov/documents-and-forms/approved-forms
For more information:	Read the <i>How To Prepare and Send an Answer/Response to Complaint/Petition</i> instruction sheet that comes with this form. You may also find more information, resources, and the location of your local county self help center at: www.illinoislegalaid.org/legal-information/responding-lawsuit .