



How is a Civil Case conducted in the District Court?

Civil Case in the District Court



The plaintiff is the party who brings the case before the court. **The defendant** is the opposing party in the case.

Order in Court

It is essential for everyone, i.e. the court, the parties involved, witnesses, and spectators, to maintain order in court. Please turn off your mobile phone before entering the courtroom.

Civil Cases

Most civil cases in the district court are handled by a single judge. In special cases, three judges from the court may participate. In housing cases and other special types of cases, two expert judges may be present. They will sit on either side of the court's judge in the courtroom.

The Course of the Trial

The Case Begins, and the Parties are Questioned

Everyone in the courtroom stands up when the judge enters. The case begins with both parties presenting their claims, i.e. stating how they believe the case should be settled. After that, the plaintiff's lawyer will briefly explain the case and possibly read some of the case documents. Then each party will give testimony. The plaintiff first, followed by the defendant. After that, there may be witnesses who need to testify, including any expert witnesses.

Witness Testimony

Witnesses are not allowed in the courtroom prior to giving their own testimony. This is because witnesses should not overhear the testimonies of the parties and other witnesses, as their own testimonies could be influenced. The party who has called the witness starts asking questions. Witnesses who have testified are welcome to stay in the courtroom and observe the rest of the case as spectators.

The Procedure

Once everyone has testified, the lawyers will present their views on the case. That is called the procedure. During the procedure, the plaintiff's lawyer and then the defense counsel will explain why they believe the case should be settled as claimed.

The Judge's Possible Indication/Decision

The judge may ask the parties if they are interested in the court giving an indication of the case outcome. If the judge gives an indication, the parties can accept or reject it in the court session or ask for a short period for consideration. If the parties cannot accept the indication, a judgment will be made in the case. The court will inform when the judgment will be delivered.

The Judgement

When the judgment is delivered, the court sends a copy of the judgment to the parties or their lawyers. If you have been a spectator, you can call the court within 7 days to get the result of the judgment. In very special cases, the court may decide that the judgment should be delivered in a court session. Then everyone has access to come and hear the judgment being read out.

Witness Duty and Responsibility

Witnesses are obligated to tell the truth in court and, as a rule, they are required to testify. Special rules apply to close relatives, and when a testimony could expose the witness or the witness's close relatives to penalty or loss of welfare. If you, as a witness, are in doubt whether you are required to testify, you should inform the court.

Uncomfortable Witnesses

If you, as a party or witness, feel uncomfortable, you are welcome to contact the staff, who can help and guide you.

Witness Compensation, etc.

Witnesses are entitled to witness compensation and reimbursement of transportation expenses. If you are a witness, the court will inform you how to proceed to receive witness compensation. If you want to claim compensation for lost earnings, you must inform the judge or a member of the staff.