

Answering a Civil Complaint

Waiver: These instructions and forms are just information. They are not legal advice.

Legal advice depends on the specific circumstances of each situation. The information contained in this document is not guaranteed to be up to date. The information cannot replace the advice of an attorney licensed to practice law.

What forms will I need to answer a civil complaint?

You will need to fill out and file the following form:

- Answer

The **Answer** tells the Court and the Plaintiff whether you admit or deny the information contained in the Complaint.

What words do I need to know?

Plaintiff- A Plaintiff is someone who files an action in court. You are the Plaintiff in this case.

Defendant- A Defendant is the person who is filed against in court. The other person or business that you are filing against is the Defendant in this case.

Counterclaim- A Counterclaim is a claim or dispute that you may have against the Plaintiff.

What do I do with the forms?

- 1 Fill out the form.
 - Fill out all the blanks on the Answer.
 - Sign and date your Answer.
- 2 Make copies.
 - Make at least two copies of your Answer once you have it filled out.
- 3 File Answer at the Tribal Court.
 - Go to the Clerk of Tribal Court's office. File your original Answer with the Clerk.

- If you cannot afford the filing fee, ask the Clerk for a fee waiver application.
 - Give your copies to the Clerk and ask her to stamp them as “Filed.” Keep the copies in a safe place.
- 4 Mail a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff.
- Send a copy of your completed Answer to the Plaintiff by U.S. mail, postage prepaid.
- 5 Go to any hearing the Court sets.
- Be sure to check your mail often for any notices from the Court.
 - If the Court sets a hearing, bring your stamped copy of your Answer with you to Court.
 - Arrive at Court at least 15 minutes before your scheduled hearing and check in with the Clerk. Dress like you were going to an important job interview.
 - Be prepared to explain to the Court any issues you have with the Complaint and anything you denied to the Court in your Answer.

Where can I get more information?

The Laws of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes contain the law on filing civil cases. The laws concerning civil actions can be found in Title IV. CSKT Laws Codified can be found online at www.cskt.org/gov/court-triballawcode.htm

Your Name

Your Mailing Address

City State Zip

Your Telephone Number

Defendant Pro Se

**IN THE TRIBAL COURT OF THE CONFEDERATED SALISH & KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD RESERVATION, PABLO, MONTANA**

_____,)
Plaintiff,) Cause No. _____
vs.)
_____,) **ANSWER**
Defendant.)
)

I am answering the Complaint filed against me in this matter as follows:

1. Admissions (*Things in the Complaint that you agree with.*)

The things in the Complaint listed below are true. I admit the following:

_____.

2. Denials (*Things in the Complaint that you do not agree with.*)

The things in the Complaint listed below are not true. I deny the following:

3. Additional Information

The following information is important for the Court to know before issuing a judgment in this action: _____

4. Counterclaims (*List any claims you have against the Plaintiff.*)

5. I deny anything I did not specifically admit in this Answer.

I respectfully ask this Court to enter an order dismissing the Complaint filed by the Plaintiff, award any judgment requested in my counterclaim, and any other relief the Court deems proper.

Date: _____ Respondent _____

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I sent a true and correct copy of the foregoing Answer to the following parties by U.S. mail, postage prepaid on this the _____ day of _____, 20____:

Name

Address

City State Zip

Defendant Pro Se (*Your Signature*)