

# Getting Started

## Appearance

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**IMPORTANT:** This getting started guide and the instructions are not legal advice. They are only meant to help you learn how to use the *Appearance* form. Your use of the form does not guarantee you will be successful in court.

To learn how to fill out the forms and file them with the court, read the *How to File an Appearance* instruction sheet and the instructions on the forms.

<b>Name of the form:</b>	<i>Appearance</i>
<b>Purpose of the form:</b>	Use this form to tell the court and the other parties that you are participating in the case and going to represent yourself in the case. Also use this form to ask the court for a trial with a judge or a judge and jury.
<b>Types of cases the form CAN be used for:</b>	All civil cases. For example in divorce cases, family cases eviction cases, small claims cases, and law suits for injury or property damage.
<b>Types of cases the form CANNOT be used for:</b>	All criminal cases.
<b>Special information or papers needed to complete the forms:</b>	<p>You will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• names and addresses of the other parties;</li> <li>• names and addresses of the other parties' lawyers; AND</li> <li>• the court case number.</li> </ul> <p>You can find this information on other court papers you have about this case.</p>
<b>Rules and statutes covering the form:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Illinois Supreme Court Rules</a> 13, 181, 286</li> <li>• <a href="#">735 ILCS 5/2-1105</a></li> </ul>
<b>Where to find the form and instruction sheet:</b>	<a href="http://illinoiscourts.gov/documents-and-forms/approved-forms">illinoiscourts.gov/documents-and-forms/approved-forms</a>
<b>For more information:</b>	<p>Read the <i>How to File an Appearance</i> instruction sheet that comes with these forms. You may also find more information, resources, and the location of your local county self help center at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.illinoislegalaid.org/legal-information/appearance">www.illinoislegalaid.org/legal-information/appearance</a>.</p>