



# LEGAL DICTIONARY

<b>PRO SE or SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANT</b>	A party who does not have an attorney to represent them in court.
<b>FILE/FILING</b>	Getting a document into the court file at the Clerk's Office.
<b>PETITIONER</b>	The party that starts the court case by filing the <i>PETITION</i> .
<b>RESPONDENT</b>	The party that responds to the court case by filing a <i>RESPONSE</i> .
<b>ORDER</b>	A legal document signed by a judicial officer (judge or commissioner) that parties need to obey.
<b>SERVICE</b>	The act of giving the other party copies of your paperwork. There are strict rules for serving the documents that start the court case (Summons and Petition). There are different rules for serving documents filed after the Summons and Petition.
<b>MOTION</b>	A written request for the court to make a decision on an issue that the parties do not agree upon. Hearings must be scheduled so that motions get decided. Motions are not automatic and must be filed by a party.
<b>NOTICE OF HEARING/ NOTICE OF COURT DATE</b>	A form that tells the clerk to schedule a hearing and tells the other parties the subject matter, date and location of the hearing.
<b>DECLARATION</b>	A written statement, sworn or affirmed. Must include the language " <i>I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.</i> "
<b>JOINER or AGREEMENT TO JOIN PETITION</b>	A statement signed by Respondents to tell the court they agree with everything in the Petition. This statement can be in a separate form (available at <a href="http://www.courts.wa.gov/forms">www.courts.wa.gov/forms</a> ) or as part of the Petition.
<b>FINAL ORDERS</b>	Each case type has specific forms required to finalize.
<b>TRIAL</b>	The proceeding at which the judge hears live testimony from witnesses and argument from parties, considers evidence properly introduced, and decides the outcome of the case.
<b>SANCTIONS</b>	Penalties that may be imposed by the courts (fines).
<b>JURISDICTION</b>	The Court's authority to hear a case or make decisions on issues in the case.
Additional legal terms are defined <a href="#">here</a> : <a href="https://www.courts.wa.gov/newsinfo/resources/?fa=newsinfo_jury.termguide">https://www.courts.wa.gov/newsinfo/resources/?fa=newsinfo_jury.termguide</a>	
Legal glossaries in 17 different languages available <a href="#">here</a> :  <a href="https://www.courts.wa.gov/programs_orgs/pos_interpret/index.cfm?fa=pos_interpret.display&amp;fileName=glossary/index">https://www.courts.wa.gov/programs_orgs/pos_interpret/index.cfm?fa=pos_interpret.display&amp;fileName=glossary/index</a>	