

## General Civil and Domestic Relations Case Filing Instructions

1. Provide the class of court and county in which the case is being filed.
2. Provide the plaintiff's and defendant's names.
3. Provide the plaintiff's attorney's name and Bar number. If you are representing yourself, provide your own name and check the self-represented box.
4. Provide the type of case by checking only *one* appropriate box. Cases can be either general civil or domestic relations and only *one* type of case within those categories. Check the case type that most accurately describes the primary case. If you are making more than one type of claim, check the case type that involves the largest amount of damages or the one you consider most important. See below for definitions of each case type.
5. Provide the type of post-judgment action, if applicable, by checking the appropriate box. Post-judgment cases are those that seek to enforce or modify an existing judgment. If the case is a post-judgment matter, an initial case type in the general civil and domestic relations boxes must be checked.
6. Provide an answer to the four questions by checking the appropriate boxes and/or filling in the appropriate lines.

### Case Type Definitions

#### General Civil Cases

**Automobile Tort:** Any tort case involving personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death resulting from alleged negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

**Civil Appeal:** Any case disputing the finding of a limited jurisdiction trial court, department, or administrative agency.

**Contract:** Any case involving a dispute over an agreement between two or more parties.

**Garnishment:** Any case where, after a monetary judgment, a third party who has money or other property belonging to the defendant is required to turn over such money or property to the court.

**General Tort:** Any tort case that is not defined or is not attributable to one of the other torts.

**Habeas Corpus:** Any case designed to test the legality of the detention or imprisonment of an individual, not the question of guilt or innocence.

**Injunction/Mandamus/Other Writ:** Cases involving a written court order directed to a specific person, requiring that person to perform or refrain from performing a specific act.

**Landlord/Tenant:** Any case involving landlord/tenant disputes wherein the landlord removes a tenant and his/her property from the premises or places a lien on tenant property to repay debt.

**Medical Malpractice Tort:** Any tort case that alleges misconduct or negligence by a person in the medical profession acting in a professional capacity, such as doctors, nurses, physician's assistants, dentists, etc.

**Product Liability Tort:** Any tort case that alleges injury is caused to a person by the manufacturer or seller of an article due to a defect in, or the condition of, the article sold or an alleged breach of duty to provide suitable instructions to prevent injury.

**Real Property:** Any case involving disputes over the ownership, use, boundaries, or value of fixed land.

**Restraining Petition:** Any petition for a restraining order that does not result from a domestic altercation or is not between parties considered to be in a domestic relationship.

**Other General Civil:** Any case in which a plaintiff requests the enforcement or protection of a right or the redress or prevention of a wrong, but does not fit into one of the other defined case categories.

#### Domestic Relations Cases

**Adoption:** Cases involving a request for the establishment of a new, permanent relationship of parent and child between persons not so biologically related.

**Dissolution/Divorce/Separate Maintenance:** Any case involving the dissolution of a marriage or the establishment of alimony or separate maintenance.

**Family Violence Petition:** Any case in which a protective order from a family member or domestic partner is requested.

**Paternity/Legitimation:** Cases involving the establishment of the identity and/or responsibilities of the father of a minor child or the determination of biological offspring.

**Support – IV-D:** Cases filed by the Georgia Department of Human Services to request maintenance of a minor child by a person who is required, under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act of 1973, to provide such maintenance.

**Support – Private (non-IV-D):** Cases filed to request maintenance of a parent/guardian or a minor child by a person who is required by law, but who is not under the auspices of Title IV-D of the Social Security Act of 1973, to provide such maintenance.

**Other Domestic Relations:** Domestic relations cases, including name changes, that do not adequately fit into any of the other case types.

#### Post-Judgment

**Contempt:** Any case alleging failure to comply with a previously existing court order.

**Modification:** Any case seeking to change the terms of a previously existing court order.

**Other/Administrative:** Any case with post-judgment activity that does not fit into contempt or modification categories.

**Please note:** This form is for statistical purposes only. It shall have no legal effect in the case. The information collected on this form is used solely for court administration purposes. This form does not supplement or replace the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law or court rules. Information on this form cannot be entered into evidence.

