

Small Claims Decentralization

Effective Monday, October 16, 2017, the Centralized Small Claims Office located at 80 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106 will be closed. No new small claims writs or any other documents on small claims cases can be filed at the Centralized Small Claims Office in person, by fax or by mail as of that date. The decentralization process will begin in August, 2017, and be completed effective October 16, 2017. The following is a brief summary of the changes. For more information on small claims decentralization, go to the Judicial Branch website at www.jud.ct.gov or a clerk's office, court service center, public information desk or law library.

Effective Friday, September 1, 2017 and after:

1. All small claims cases filed *with the Centralized Small Claims Office* or electronically through Small Claims E-Filing will have an answer date on or after October 16, 2017, and will be transferred to the small claims docket at the appropriate judicial district or housing session.
2. Any existing (pending or post-judgment) small claims case that (1) requires a hearing date after September 1, 2017; or (2) has a final date for compliance ordered by a magistrate after September 1, 2017, will be transferred to the small claims docket in the appropriate judicial district or housing session.
3. When a case is transferred, the court will send to counsel and self-represented parties notice of the court location and a new docket number that must be used on any documents filed with the court for these cases. Paper documents must include the new docket number and be filed with the clerk of the appropriate location. Electronically-filed documents must be filed through *Superior Court E-filing*, using the new docket number.
4. Any new cases, or documents filed on existing cases that have not been transferred, shall be filed electronically through Centralized Small Claims E-Filing or on paper with the Centralized Small Claims Office or at the appropriate court location, until 5:00 p.m. on October 13, 2017.

Effective October 16, 2017, and after:

1. When you are filing a new small claims case after the defendants have been served, you must file the small claims writ with the appropriate judicial district or housing session location clerk's office as set forth in Section 51-345 and 51-346 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
2. If you are filing any document *on paper* (including an application for an execution filed by a self-represented party) on an existing case that has not been transferred to a judicial district or housing session location, you must file the paper document with the appropriate judicial district or housing session clerk's office. The clerk will then have the case transferred from Centralized Small Claims to the appropriate judicial district or housing session location.
3. If you are filing an application for an execution *electronically* on a small claims case that has *not* been transferred and assigned a new docket number, you must use the existing small claims docket number and file it through Centralized Small Claims E-Filing, not Superior Court E-Filing. Once the execution is filed, the case will be transferred to the small claims docket in the appropriate judicial district or housing session location and assigned a new docket number.

4. If you want to view a file that has not been transferred and assigned a new docket number, you must contact the appropriate judicial district or housing session location for assistance.

For more information on where to file small claims cases, go to the Judicial Branch website:

<http://www.jud.ct.gov/directory/directory/directions/smallclaims.htm>
