

Civil Lawsuits

Civil Court

- If a jury is used: The 7th Amendment protects the right to a jury in a civil trial over \$20.
- Jury still delivers verdict
- Only 9 of 12 people need to agree
- Also, the burden of proof is different: Jurors need a preponderance of proof

Civil Courts

- There is no Prosecutor, instead there is a Plaintiff
- The Plaintiff files a complaint

The Steps

- 1. Plaintiff files a complaint
- 2. Court sends a summons to the defendant
- 3. Defendant files a written answer to the complaint
- 4. Attorney's exchange plea's in document
- 5. Attorney's argue in court
- 6. If a jury is involved they will issue a verdict (9/12)

Civil Law

- Civil law involves disputes between the Plaintiff and Defendant
- When you think lawsuit think civil law
- Civil court decides whether defendant is liable and what amount of re\$titution is paid
- Lawsuits involving more than \$10,000 are heard in NC Superior Court

Civil Law

- Lawsuits involving less than \$10,000 are heard in NC District Court
- Lawsuits involving less than \$5,000 are heard in small claims court
- To alleviate the Docket: In a settlement the defendant agrees to pay a certain amount of money and the plaintiff drops the suit

Other ways to resolve conflicts

- An impartial 3rd party helps two adversaries reach their own decisions: Mediation
- A third party makes a binding decision: Arbitration
- Two sides meet in the middle: Compromise
- Members of both sides are allowed to voice opinions with tight restrictions: Debate

Other ways to resolve conflict

- Discussion continues until widespread agreement is reached:
Consensus
- Back and forth discussions among all parties involved:
Negotiation