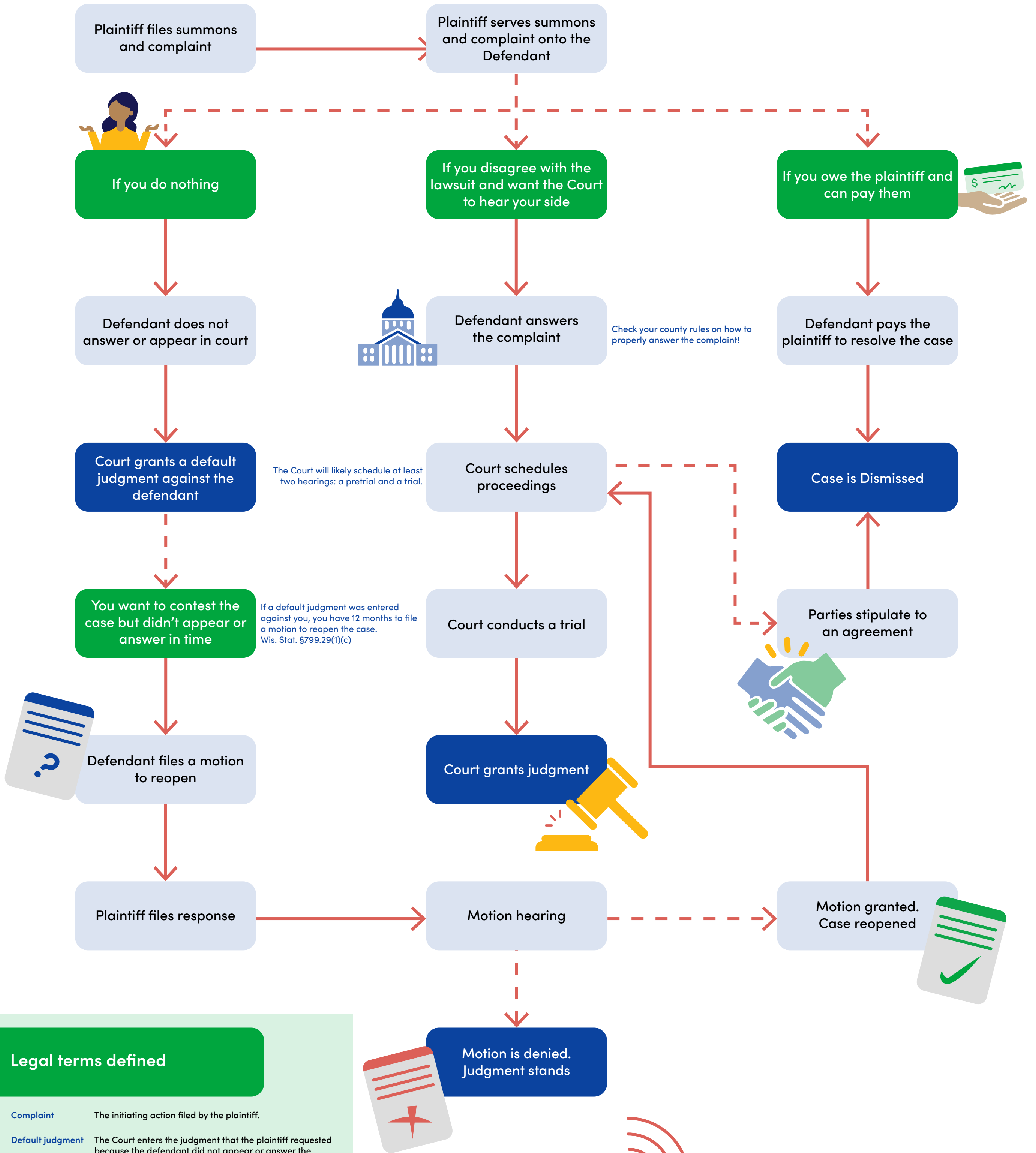


# Basic Process for Wisconsin Small Claims Cases

Small Claims Court handles a variety of civil cases including evictions and cases where the money claimed is less than \$10,000. Wis. Stat. §799.29(1)(c)

This flow chart is an example of small claims procedure.

Depending on the type of small claims case (ex. evictions have special rules) and the county, some things may vary.



## Legal terms defined

<b>Complaint</b>	The initiating action filed by the plaintiff.
<b>Default judgment</b>	The Court enters the judgment that the plaintiff requested because the defendant did not appear or answer the complaint. The Court will typically side with the person who appeared in court.
<b>Defendant</b>	The person/entity being sued.
<b>Judgment</b>	A court decision.
<b>Plaintiff</b>	The person/entity that initiates the lawsuit. In a small claims case, they are claiming the defendant owes them money. They are responsible for meeting the burden of proof required by the court.
<b>Pretrial</b>	A check-in with the Court before the trial and a final chance for the parties to come to an agreement outside of court.
<b>Stipulation</b>	A legally enforceable agreement. In small claims cases, that might mean paying the amount owed in full, negotiating a lower balance, or entering into a payment plan.
<b>Trial</b>	Both parties present their evidence and try to convince the Court they are right.

calling... Contact your Clerk of Courts for detailed information on Small Claims Court procedure and local rules!