

Types of Cases Heard by the Alaska Court System

A **court case** is a dispute that the person(s) who file the case ask the court to resolve. Resolving a case requires the court to determine what the facts of the case are and how Alaska law applies to those facts. The people or entities involved in a court case are called **parties**. The person or entity who files the case is called the **plaintiff** or **petitioner**. The person or entity who responds to what the plaintiff or petitioner files is called the **defendant** or **respondent**.

Some court cases are **contested**. This means the parties to the case do not agree on the outcome and the court (or a **jury**) is asked to decide the issue(s). Other cases are **uncontested**. This means that the parties have come to an agreement about how the case will be resolved.

There are different types of court cases: criminal, civil, minor offenses, and probate. Cases can further be described within a main case type. Following is a summary of many of the case types handled by the Alaska Court System.

