

Civil and Criminal Law

REVIEW: The difference between Civil and Criminal cases.

CIVIL CASES

Civil cases involve "lawsuits."

(Plaintiff: claims to have suffered a loss and seeks damages (usually money).)

(Defendant: Says that the loss didn't occur or that they are not responsible for it.)

"Suits in Equity": People file a lawsuit to prevent a damaging action from taking place. (Judge can issue an injunction, court order to stop a certain action.) Example: Landfill.

Steps in A Civil Case:

1.) Someone brings suit:

- lawyer files a complaint.
- court sends the defendant a summons; an order to appear in court.

2.) Defendant responds: Lawyer will admit to charges or say why the defendant isn't responsible. (Complaint and Response together are called Pleadings.)

3.) Discovery: Lawyers on both sides check the facts.