

Some Do's and Don'ts for Your Hearing:

- **Do be brief.** Give the court all the information it needs but don't be long-winded. The judge will want to hear all of the important facts as briefly as possible. It may be helpful to make an outline of what you want to say for your own use, but you should come prepared to explain your claim against the defendant to the court. This way, you will be sure you haven't left anything out.
- **Do be polite at all times.** Don't interrupt the other party, the judge, or any of the witnesses.
- **Don't act like a lawyer.** It won't help your case to act like a lawyer. Small claims court is designed to avoid as much legal talk as possible.