Request a Default Judgment by Court

A defendant has 30 days from the date he or she is personally served with your summons and complaint to file a written response, or 40 if you served them by substituted service. (California Code of Civil Procedure (CCP) § 412.20(a) (3) (http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=CCP§ionNum=412.20.)).

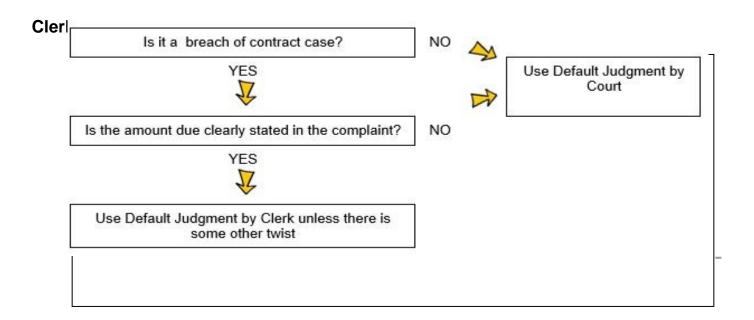
This is not an automatic cutoff. The court will still accept a response from the defendant after 30 days, until you file a *Request for Entry of Default*. Once the clerk enters a default in the court record, the defendant is no longer able to file a response or otherwise participate in the case.

Templates and Forms

- Request for Entry of Default (CIV-100) (https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/civ100.pdf)
- Judgment of Default by Court (CV/E-122) Sacramento Cases Only (https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/forms/docs/cv-122.pdf)
- Judgment (JUD-100) Non-Sacramento Cases Only (https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/jud100.pdf)
- Request for Dismissal (CIV-110) (https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/civ110.pdf)
- Declaration re: Accrual of Interest (MC-030) (https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/mc030.pdf)
- <u>Declaration in Support of Request for Default by Court RTF (https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/sbs-request-a-default-judgment-by-court-declaration.rtf)</u>
- Statement of Damages (CIV-050) (https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/civ050.pdf)

The plaintiff can also request a judgment entered in his or her favor, at the same time as the default, or later. This is known as requesting a default judgment.

The clerk can grant a default judgment in some breach of contract cases. We have a separate guide for that; https://saclaw.org/resource_library/request-a-default-judgment-by-clerk-2/ it is simpler. In other cases it must be done by the judge ("default judgment by court").



Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Make sure defendant has actually missed their deadline

Deadline:

- Personal service—30 calendar days from service
- Substituted service 40 calendar days from follow-up mailing (longer if outside California)

The defendant has 30 days from the date of personal service to file his or her response. If the defendant was served by substituted service, service is considered complete on the 10th day after the follow-up mailing required to complete substituted service (CCP § 415.20(a)

(https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=CCP§ionNum=415.20.)), so, as a practical matter, the default cannot be taken until more than 40 days have passed after this mailing.

If the last day is a weekend or holiday, the deadline extends until the next business day. The first day you can file your Request for Default is the 31st (or 41st) day.

Declaration of Venue and Statements of Damages: As discussed above, you must also have served the Declaration of Venue, Statement of Damages, and/or Punitive Damages Statement, as needed, and waited an additional 30 (or 40) days unless it was served with the Summons and Complaint.

2. Choose entry of default only, or entry of default and court judgment

Obtaining a default judgment involves two steps: the request for entry of default and the request for entry of court judgment. You can request both at the same time, or you can take these steps at different times.

Entry of Default only: If you want to cut off the defendant from responding as soon as possible, but you need additional time to get all the paperwork ready for the judgment, file the Request for Entry of Default (CIV-100) now and the request for judgment later. Here are the steps:

- Fill out Request for Entry of Default (CIV-100) (http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/civ100.pdf) and sign it. A sample filled-in form with instructions is available in the Forms section of this guide.
- Make three copies.
- Have someone else (a person over 18 who is not a party to the case) serve (mail) one copy to the
 defendant. On the rest of the copies, have the server fill out and sign Item 6 on page 2 ("Declaration of
 Mailing").
- File the original and both copies with the Clerk.
- Complete the rest of this guide when you are ready to request the judgment. Your deadline is within 45 days after entry of default, unless you ask the court for an extension.

Entry of Default and Court Judgment: If you have all the paperwork you need to request the judgment as well, you can request it at the same time as the entry of default, on the same form. The additional paperwork is fairly simple.

Judgment only: If you have already gotten the default entered, you will just ask for the judgment.

For the rest of this guide, we will assume you are filing both steps simultaneously.

3. Complete the necessary forms

The Judicial Council and local Sacramento County forms commonly used in this procedure are:

- Request for Entry of Default (CIV-100) (http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/civ100.pdf)
- <u>Judgment by Default by Court (CV/E-122) (http://www.saccourt.ca.gov/forms/docs/cv-122.pdf)</u> (If you are not in Sacramento County, use Judgment (JUD-100) (http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/jud100.pdf) or your local form)
- Request for Dismissal (CIV-110) (http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/civ110.pdf), if dismissing other parties (see Step 4)
- Declaration re: Accrual of Interest (MC-030) (http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/mc030.pdf), if claiming pre-judgment interest (see Step 5)

In addition, you will need to write a *Declaration in Support of Application for Default Judgment*. There is no Judicial Council form for this declaration. Instead, it must be typed on 28-line pleading paper. A customizable template may be downloaded from this link:



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Declaration In Support of Application for Default Judgment Pursuant to CCP § 585(d) (https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/sbs-request-a-default-judgment-by-court-declaration.rtf) (https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/sbs-request-a-default-judgment-by-court-declaration.rtf) (see Step 7)

Sample filled-in forms with instructions are available at the end of this Guide.

You will also need to provide:

- The original Summons if not yet filed, or a file-stamped copy if already filed
- The original Proof of Service of Summons if not yet filed, or a file-stamped copy if already filed
- Proof of Service of Declaration of Venue, Statement of Damages, and/or Reservation of Rights to Punitive Damages, if needed.

When do you need a Declaration of Venue or Statement of Damages? (https://saclaw.org/resource_library/missing-declaration-of-venue-or-statement-of-damages-requirement-can-trip-you-up/)

4. Dismiss any other parties (DOES)

Before you can obtain a judgment, you must dismiss any parties other than the party(ies) in default. This usually means any DOES you included in the Complaint. If you did not name anyone other than the party(ies) in default, skip this step.

To dismiss parties, fill out <u>Request for Dismissal (CIV-110) (https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/civ110.pdf)</u>. A sample filled-in form with instructions is available at the end of this Guide.

5. Complete your Declaration re: Accrual of Interest

Many contracts include interest on a loan or on overdue payments in addition to the principal amount owed. To obtain any pre-judgment interest you claimed in your Complaint, you must prepare a declaration to the court showing how you calculated that amount. You may use Declaration (MC-030)
(https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/mc030.pdf">https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/mc030.pdf) for this declaration. A sample is included at the end of this Guide, which you can adapt to fit your own facts and circumstances.

In breach of contract cases, pre-judgment interest will accrue at the rate of interest specified in the contract; if no rate is specified, interest will accrue at 10% per year. Civ \section 3287(c)
(https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=CIV§ionNum=3287. caps pre-judgment interest in cases

against a government entity at 7% per year.

To calculate your pre-judgment interest, you must determine the daily rate of interest and multiply that by the number of days for which interest should accrue. For example, if a loan of \$15,000 with a 10% interest rate was breached 200 days ago, the prejudgment interest calculation would be:



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\$15,000 x 10% = \$1500 interest per year \$1500 ÷ 365 = \$4.11 interest per day \$4.11 x 200 = \$822 prejudgment interest

You may use the judgment calculator on the San Diego Court's website (https://ijcalc.sdcourt.ca.gov/) to determine the amount of interest. When using this calculator, enter the date the contract was breached in the field for "judgment date." This will calculate interest from that date to the date you run the calculation. The calculator will show you the daily interest rate, which you can use if you need to adjust your calculations.

6. Complete Memorandum of Costs, if any

If you have court costs that you want to recover, fill out the Memorandum of Costs portion of the Request for Entry of Judgment (CIV-100), which is item 7 on that form. If you were granted a fee waiver, you will probably not need to do this part.

If you do fill it out, it should be simple. Since the case is ending with a default, you should not have many costs to list – probably filing fees and the cost of service.

7. Complete Your Declaration in Support of Default Judgment

When you apply for your judgment, you must include a declaration under penalty of <u>perjury</u> (https://www.saclaw.org/glossary/perjury/) in support of your application. https://ecinholegislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=585.&lawCode=CCP)

In the declaration, you must provide clear and concise evidence of every element in each of the causes of action in your complaint to prove to the judge why a judgment should be awarded to you. For example, if your cause of action is for negligence, you must prove:

- Element 1. That the defendant owed a duty to the plaintiff;
- Element 2. That the defendant breached that duty;
- Element 3. That you (the plaintiff) were harmed; and
- Element 4. That the defendant's negligence was a substantial factor in causing your harm.

The official *California Civil Jury Instructions* (CACI) provide plain-English explanations of the elements of almost every cause of action. Our guide on "<u>Jury Instructions (https://www.saclaw.org/resource_library/jury-instructions/)</u>" describes how to use jury instructions as a checklist for gathering evidence. You may also wish to consult these Law Library resources for information on how to prove the elements of various causes of action:

- California Causes of Action KFC 1003 .C35
 Electronic Access: On the Law Library's computers, using VitalLaw
- California Elements of an Action KFC 1003 .S7

Attaching Exhibits

Exhibits for the original and other two copies should be separated by



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a blank piece of pleading paper with their exhibit letter or number typed or written at the bottom of the page.

Declaration

In your declaration, you must also prove the amount of money or other remedies you should be awarded, explaining the evidence you relied upon when determining the amount you are owed. Copies of documents such as receipts, contracts, police reports, etc. should be attached as exhibits where needed.

At the end of this guide is a sample declaration. You may use it as an example of the types of information to include, and the amount of detail the court will want from you. You will need to adapt the language to fit your own facts and circumstances.

You may download a customizable template from this link:

Declaration In Support of Application for Default Judgment Pursuant to CCP § 585(d) (https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/sbs-request-a-default-judgment-by-court-declaration.rtf)

If you prefer, you may use <u>Declaration (MC-030) (http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/mc030.pdf)</u> and attach <u>Attachment to Judicial Council Form (MC-025) (http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/mc025.pdf)</u> if you need additional pages.

Ideally, this declaration will replace an in-person hearing with the judge. You must provide the judge with all the information necessary to rule in your favor. In order to fully prove your case, you will likely need to attach exhibits to your declaration, such as receipts, contracts, police reports, etc.

8. Copy and assemble documents

Make three (3) copies of each:

- Request for Dismissal (CIV-110), if applicable
- Request for Entry of Default (CIV-100)
- Judgment by Default by Court (CV/E-122) (or JUD-100 if outside Sacramento)
- Declaration re: Accrual of Interest (MC-030) (if applicable)
- Declaration in Support of Application for Default Judgment Pursuant to CCP § 585(d)

Staple each photocopy, but **leave the originals unstapled**. Set aside one photocopy of each document for service on the other party. For the remaining copies of each document, place the original on top of its photocopies, and paperclip them together.

9. Have your documents served

You must have someone over the age of 18 who is not a party in the case mail a set of the photocopies you made in Step 8 to the defendant. This person must then complete a <u>Proof of Service by Mail (POS-030)</u> (http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/pos030.pdf). Make two photocopies of the signed proof of service. See our Step-by-Step guide on Serving Documents by Mail (https://saclaw.org/resource_library/serving-documents-by-mail/) for more information.



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10. File your documents

You must file the original and two (2) remaining photocopies of:

- Request for Entry of Default (CIV-100)
- Declaration re: Accrual of Interest (MC-030)
- Judgment by Default by Court (CV/E-122) (or JUD-100 if outside Sacramento)
- Request for Dismissal (CIV-110), if applicable
- Proof of Service (POS-030) for all of the above documents (from Step 9)
- Memorandum of Costs (MC-010) with Proof of Service (p2) complete, if you are using it (from Step 6)
- Original Summons (SUM-100) (if not yet filed), or filed endorsed (stamped) copy
- Proof of Service of Summons (POS-010) (if not yet filed), or filed endorsed (stamped) copy

In Sacramento, if you do not have filed endorsed copies of the Summons and Proof of Service of Summons, you may download them from the court's online Public Portal (https://services.saccourt.ca.gov/PublicCaseAccess).

If needed, you must also file:

- Copy of written contract, with cover sheet (use <u>Declaration (MC-030) (http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/mc030.pdf)</u> as cover sheet) (if not attached to complaint)
- Proof of Service of Declaration of Venue, Statement of Damages, and/or Reservation of Rights to Punitive Damages (if served separate from Summons)

File your documents in the drop box in Room 102 in the Sacramento Superior Court at 720 Ninth Street. Fill out and attach the <u>Civil Document Drop-Off Sheet (http://www.saccourt.ca.gov/forms/docs/cv-drop-off-sheet.pdf)</u>, and date stamp the back of each original document. A supply of *Civil Document Drop-Off Sheets* and a date stamp are located near the drop box. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope with enough postage to mail your documents back to you.

The court cannot tell you exactly when your default will be processed. Unfortunately, default judgment by court paperwork tends to take a number of months to be processed.

11. Attend the Default Hearing, if Required

Typically, the court will review the materials you submit, and will grant your judgment (or reject it and request additional evidence) based on the paperwork. If, after reviewing the materials you submit, the court determines that personal testimony is required, you will be notified by the court of the hearing date. Be sure to attend the hearing, and bring with you any documents or other items that you believe support the claims made in your complaint.

12. Serve Judgment and File Proof of Service

The court will mail you a signed copy of your judgment. Make one photocopy of this judgment, and have

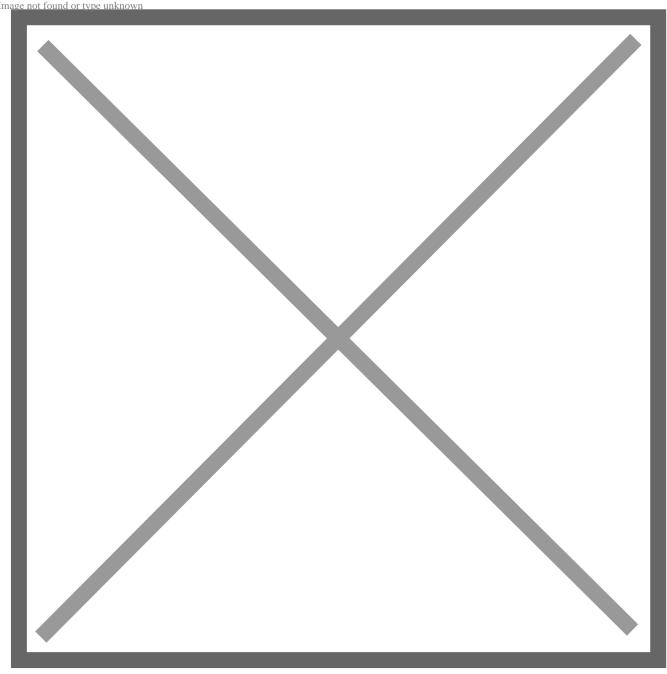


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someone over the age of 18 who is not a party in the case mail a copy of the judgment to the defendant. This person must then complete a <u>Proof of Service by Mail (POS-030) (http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/mc030.pdf)</u>. Make a photocopy of the signed proof of service, and file the original and photocopy with the court.

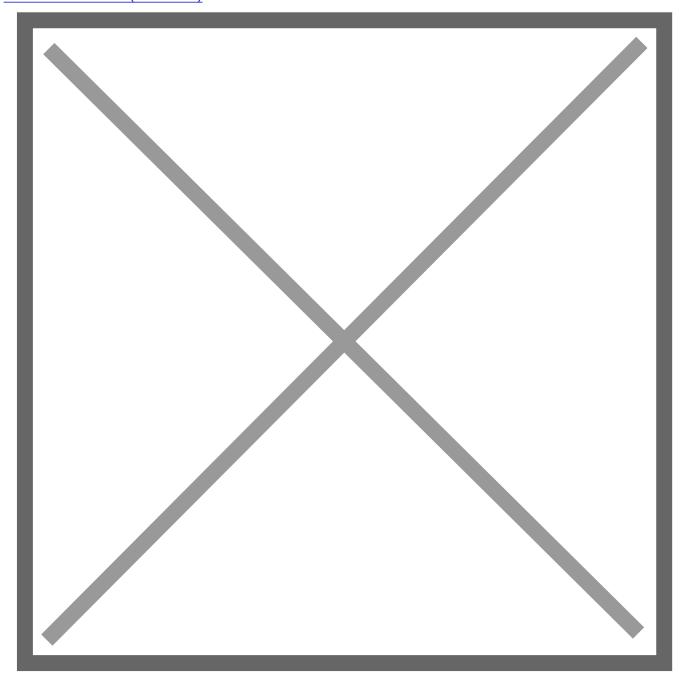
More Like This

Request Default by Clerk Image not found or type unknown



 $\underline{\text{(https://saclaw.org/resource_library/request-a-default-judgment-by-clerk-2/)}}$

Relief from Default (Set-Aside)



 $\underline{\text{(https://saclaw.org/resource_library/motion-to-set-aside-relief-from-default-judgment/)}}$

For Help

SH@LL (Self-Help at the Law Library) (https://saclaw.org/services/civil-self-help/) (formerly Civil Self Help Center) 609 9th Street, Sacramento CA 95814 (916) 476-2731 (Appointment Request Line)



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Services Provided: SH@LL provides general information and basic assistance to self-represented litigants on a variety of civil legal issues, including name changes. All assistance is provided by telephone. Visit "What we can help with (https://saclaw.org/services/civil-self-help/#canhelp)" for a list of qualifying cases.

Eligibility: Must be a Sacramento County resident or have a <u>qualifying case (https://saclaw.org/services/civil-self-help/#who)</u> in the Sacramento County Superior Court.

For More Information

At the Law Library:

Win Your Lawsuit KFC 968 .Z9 D86 (https://catalog.saclaw.org/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=1811) (Self Help) Chap. 9

California Forms of Pleading and Practice KFC 1010 .A65 C3 (https://catalog.saclaw.org/cgi-bin/koha/opac-

detail.pl?biblionumber=7) (Ready Ref) Chap. 165

Electronic Access: On the Law Library's computers, using Lexis Advance.

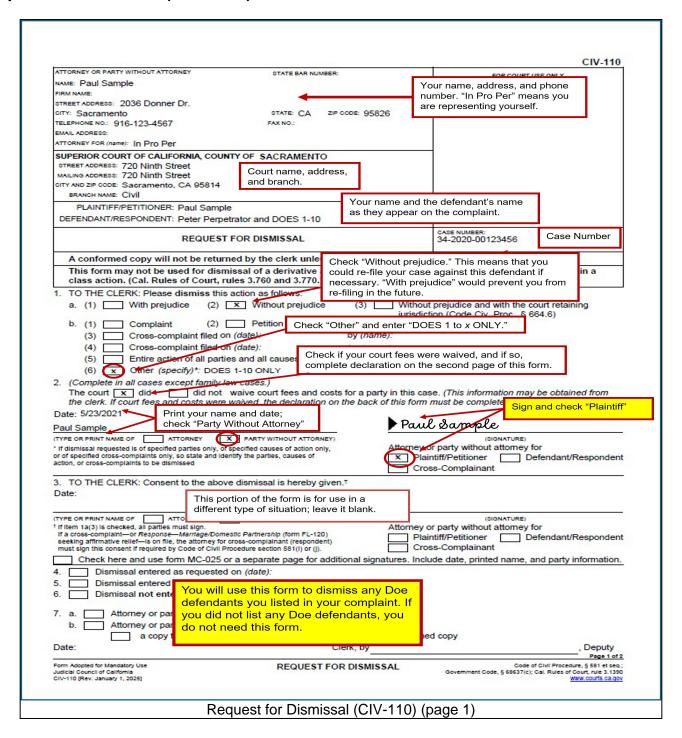
California Civil Procedure Before Trial KFC 995 .C34_(https://catalog.saclaw.org/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=936)

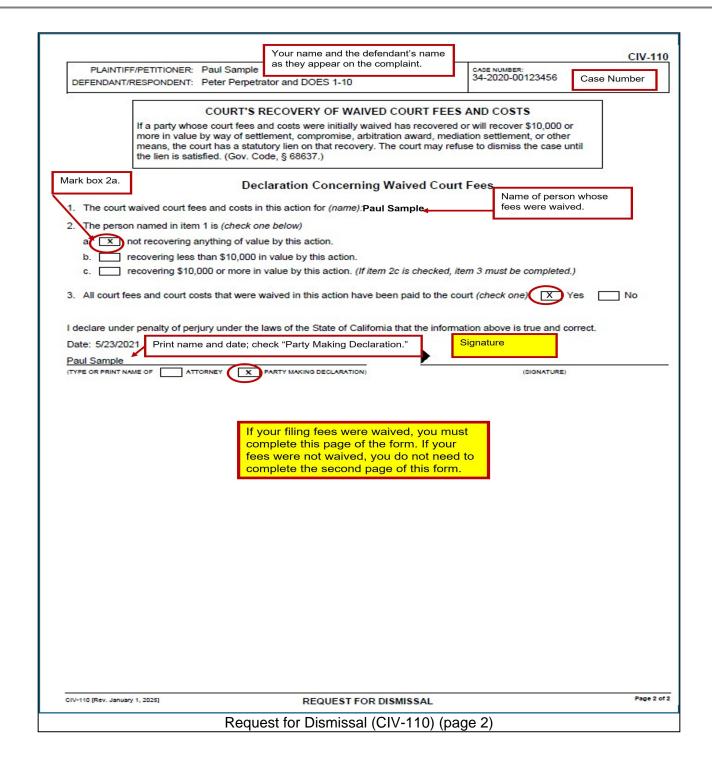
Chap. 38

Electronic Access: On the Law Library's computers, using OnLaw.

Samples

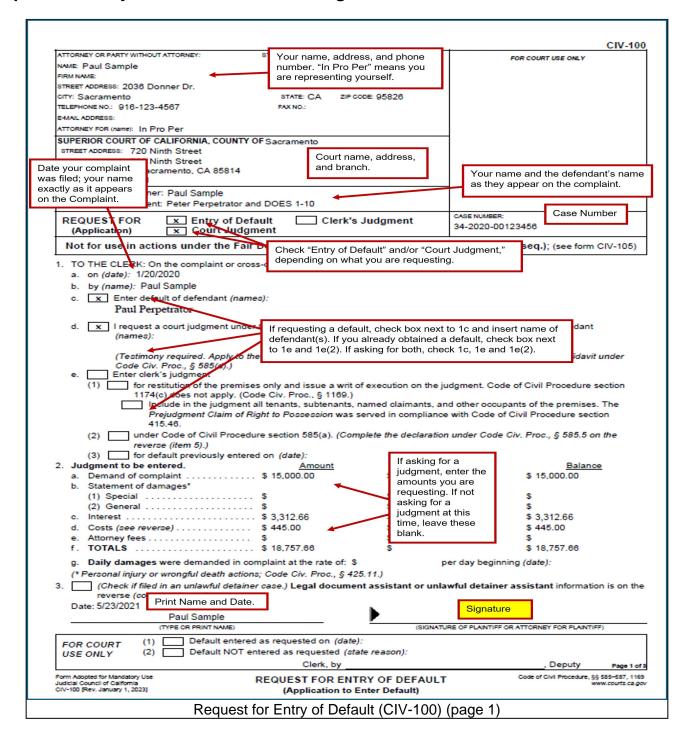
Request for Dismissal (if needed)







Request for Entry of Default and Court Judgment



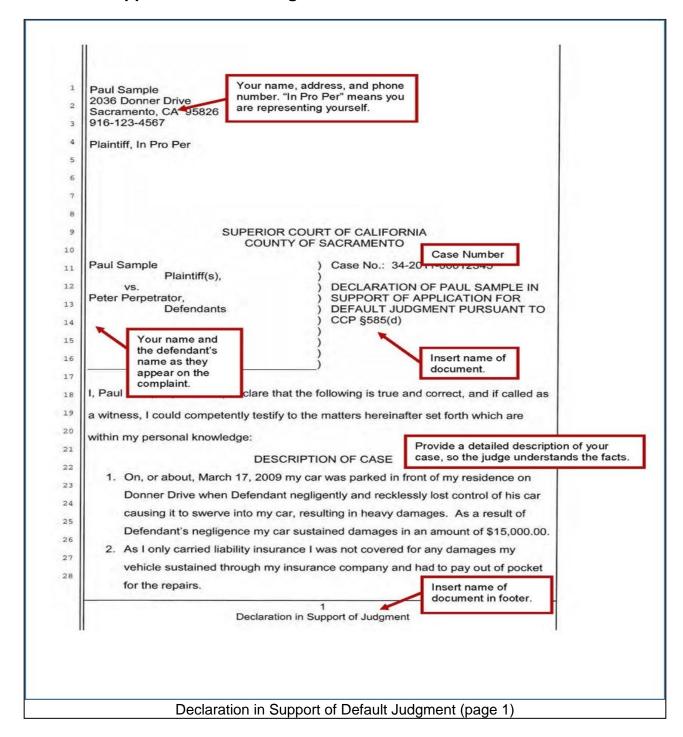
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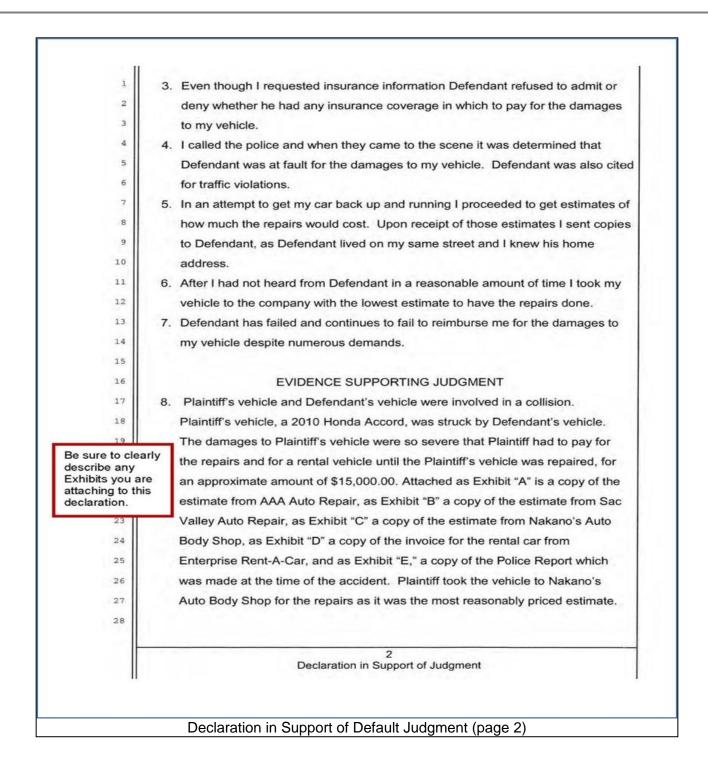


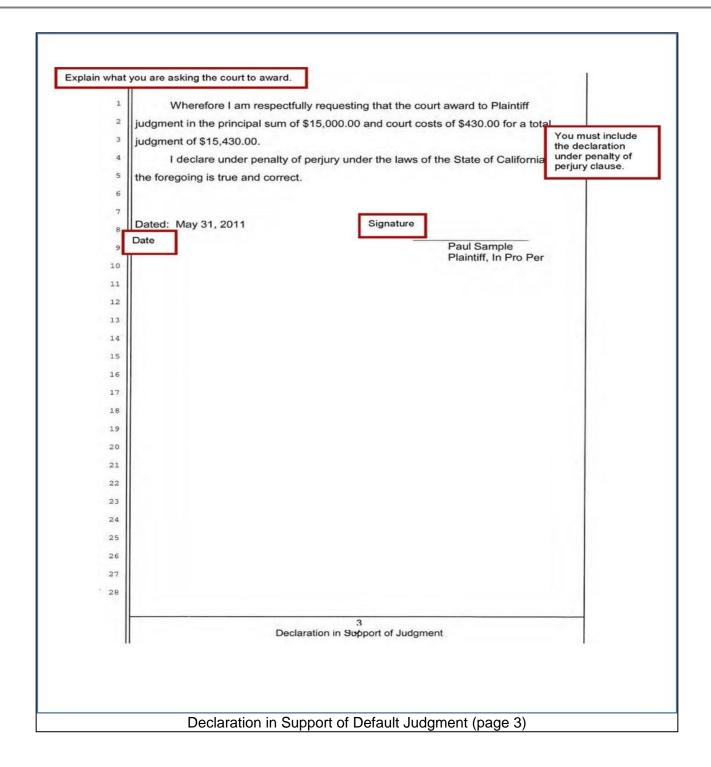
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Declaration of nonmilitary status (required for a judgment). No defendant/respondent named in item 1c is in the military service of the United Civil Relief Act (see 50 U.S.C. § 3911(2)) or California Military and Veterans Code	
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is entitled to certain rights and protections under federal and state law be For more information, see https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/military-defaults .	
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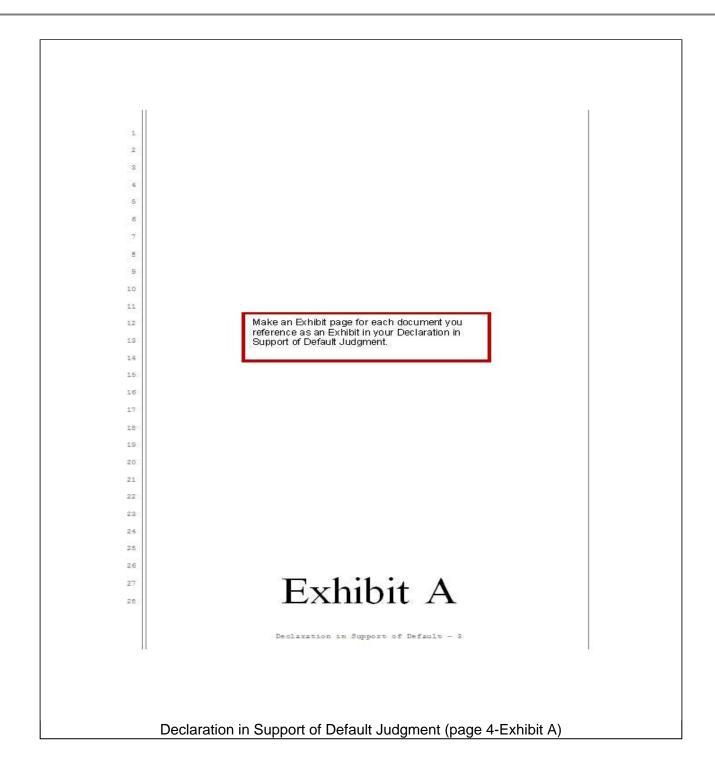
Declaration in Support of Default Judgment



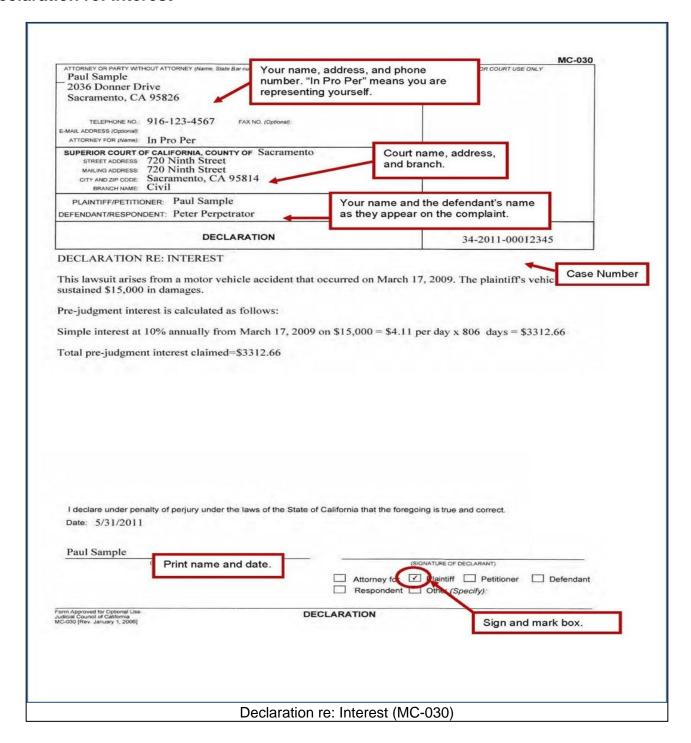






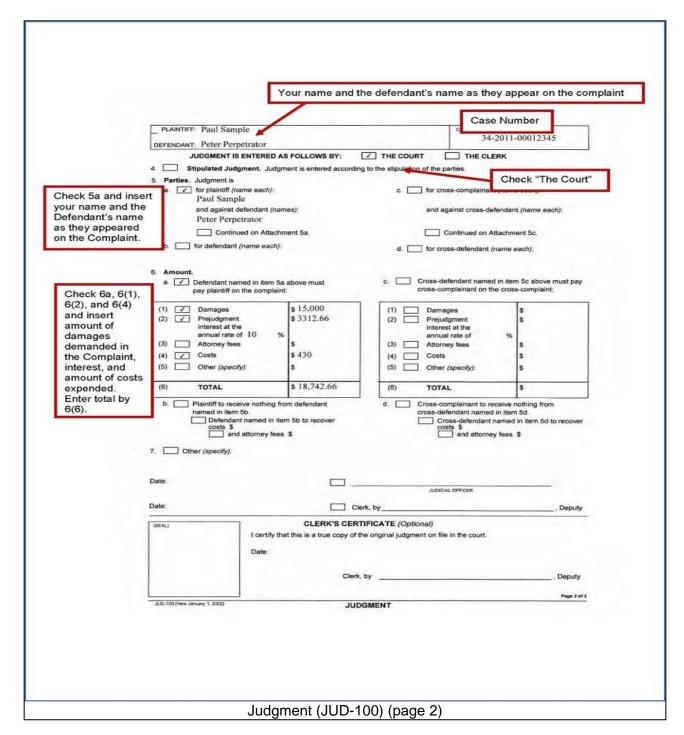


Declaration re: Interest



Judgment

ATTORNEY FOR Name In Pro Per SUPERIOR COURT or CALEPRINA COUNTY OF Sacramento STREET AGORSES 720 Ninth Street MININA ADDROCOS Sacramento, CA 95814 Court name, address, and branch. BRANCH MME Civil TERRANT: Peter Perpetrator Your name and the defendant's name as they appear on the Property of Perpetrator TAINTIFF: Paul Sample Land Trial By Clerk Case Number Case Number Case Number JUGMENT Case Number JUGMENT Case Number JUGMENT Case Number Case Number JUGMENT Case Number Case Number	Sacram	on PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, state per number, and ample Donner Drive mento, CA 95826 TELEPHONE NO. 916-123-4567	phone number. "In P means you are repre yourself.	Pro Per"
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a. Defendant was properly served with a copy of the summons and complaint. b. Defendant fame to answer the complaint or appear and defend the action within the time allowed by law. c. Defendant's default was onlying by the clerk upon plaintiff's application. d. Clerk's Judgment (Code Civ. Proc., § 585(a)). Defendant was sued only on a contract or judgment of a count is state for the recovery of money. (1) plaintiff is tables on an owner ovidence. (2) Judgment (Code Civ. Proc., § 585(b)). The count of the co				Case Number
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Continued on Attachment 3b. c. Defendant did not appear at trial. Defendant was properly served with notice of trial.				
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Form Approved by Patient Line	d.	d for Ontional Use	JUDGMENT	Code of Civil Procedure, §§ 585, 664.
Judicial Council of California JUD-100 (New January 1, 2002)		a for Optional Use	OCCOMICITY	Code of Chili Procedure, 59 385, 664.



Date Created

03/30/2023