

Guiding the way

Making a claim in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland



Court structure

Republic of Ireland

First instance civil claims

- District Court
- Circuit Court
- High Court

Superior Courts

- High Court
- Court of Appeal
- The Supreme Court is the final appeal court

There is distinct tribunal system for specialised jurisdiction eg employment; landlord and tenant; certain types of personal injuries actions.

Precise court or tribunal depends on value, complexity, subject-matter and location.

Northern Ireland (NI)

First instance civil claims

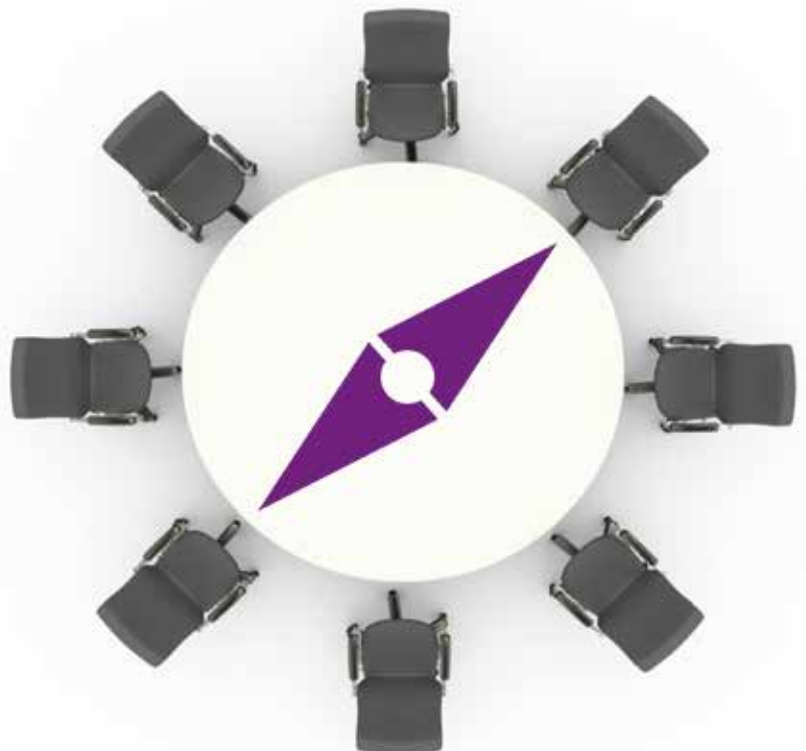
- County Court (sitting throughout NI)
- High Court (Belfast)

Senior Courts

- Court of Appeal of NI (Belfast)
- High Court (Belfast)
- The UK Supreme Court (London) is the final appeal court on points of law

There is a distinct tribunal system for specialised jurisdictions eg lands tribunals and, most notably, employment tribunals.

Precise court depends on value, complexity and subject matter.



Rules of Court

Republic of Ireland

District Court Rules

- Apply to all civil claims in the District Court

Circuit Court Rules

- Apply to all civil claims in the Circuit Court

Rules of the Superior Court

- Apply to all civil claims in the High Court and appeals to the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court

Practice Directions supplement the Rules.

Case management may apply.

Court fees vary according to the nature of and value of the claim.

Northern Ireland (NI)

County Court Rules (Northern Ireland) 1981

- Apply to all claims in the County Court

Rules of the Court of Judicature (Northern Ireland) 1980

- Apply to all claims in the High Court and Court of Appeal

Rules of the Supreme Court 2009

- Apply to all civil appeals in the Supreme Court

Pre-action protocols (general or claim-specific) will often apply.

County Court fees vary according to the nature of and value of the claim. As at November 2019 High Court writ issue fees are fixed at £261, regardless of the value of the claim. This is significantly lower than some other jurisdictions, including England & Wales.

Fees have increased by 5-10% in the last couple of years.

Limitation

Republic of Ireland

Governed primarily by the Statute of Limitations 1957.

Standstill agreements are not commonly used.

Northern Ireland (NI)

Governed by Limitation (Northern Ireland) Order 1989.

Standstill agreements are not commonly used.

Terminology

Republic of Ireland

Plaintiff and Defendant / Appellant and Respondent
/ Applicant and Respondent

Barristers

An action can be stayed

Discovery

Summons (High Court) / Civil Bill (Circuit Court)
/ Claim Notice (District Court)

Claim

Issue

Taxation / Adjudication

Northern Ireland (NI)

Appellant and Respondent / Applicant and
Respondent

Barristers

An action can be stayed

Discovery

Writ of Summons (High Court) / Civil Bill (County
Court) / Notice of Application for a Small Claim
(Small Claims)

Claim / Action

Issue

Taxation

Key contacts Republic of Ireland



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