



Roadmap of a Typical Dispute in British Columbia Supreme Court

Initial Consultation

The process begins with an initial consultation, where we explore the details of your case. This meeting is an opportunity to understand the legal landscape, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your case, and discuss potential strategies. Our goal is to provide a clear path forward, outlining the necessary actions and expected outcomes. [Book your initial consultation now.](#)

1. Filing of Notice of Civil Claim

The litigation officially starts with the filing of a Notice of Civil Claim. This document outlines the basis of the complaint or issue, detailing the facts and the legal grounds for the claim, as well as the remedies sought. Once filed, this document is served to the opposing party, putting them on notice of the legal proceeding.

2. Response to Civil Claim (and Counterclaim)

The opposing party has 21 days to file their Response to Civil Claim after being served. This response outlines their defenses and any counterclaims they might have. It's a crucial document that sets the scope of the dispute, highlighting the issues that will be addressed as the case progresses. The stage may also include a Counterclaim if the responding party believes they have grounds to seek remedies or damages from the plaintiff. A Counterclaim also requires the plaintiff to file its own Response to Civil Claim.

3. Document Production

All parties are required to exchange relevant documents in the document production phase. Each side must provide a comprehensive list of documents that are material to the case. This step ensures transparency and equips both sides with the necessary evidence to argue their case effectively.

4. Examinations for Discovery

Examinations for discovery involve a detailed questioning under oath of each party by the opposing counsel. This process allows both sides to clarify facts, probe the details of the case, and refine their arguments. The information gathered here is critical for building a robust strategy for trial.

5. Case Planning Conference (Optional)

For more complex disputes, a case planning conference may be scheduled. This step is optional and is used to organize the proceedings, especially in cases involving extensive evidence or multiple parties. It helps streamline future steps and set timelines that keep the case moving efficiently.

6. Mediation or Settlement Discussions

Many disputes are resolved without going to trial through mediation or direct settlement discussions. These negotiations can provide a quicker, more cost-effective resolution and are typically less confrontational than a trial. Mediation allows both parties to explore mutually acceptable solutions with the help of a neutral third party.

7. Trial

If a settlement is not achieved, the case proceeds to trial. Here, each party presents their arguments, evidence, and witnesses to a judge or jury. The trial is the culmination of the litigation process, where legal arguments are made and decisions are reached based on the presented facts and law.

8. Judgment and Appeal

Following the trial, the judge will issue a judgment that resolves the issues in dispute. This judgment may be subject to appeal by either party if there are grounds to challenge the legal interpretations or the application of law. Unless the dispute is extremely simple, it will generally take many months for the judge to present their decision and reasons for judgment.

Contact Peak Law Group

Navigating a legal dispute in the Supreme Court of British Columbia can be a complex process. Understanding the steps involved in Supreme Court litigation is crucial, whether you're bringing a claim or defending against one. At Peak Law Group, we provide clear, practical guidance through every stage of litigation, whether you are initiating a claim or defending against one. [Contact us for a consultation](#) to discuss how we can support your case.