



# New Court Users' Guide

Supreme Courts

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## Introduction

This guide outlines the basics you need to know as a customer at the Offices of the Court of Session. We hope it will be of benefit to both new and existing customers.

We advise new court users to read this booklet prior to dealing with the Offices of Court, as this will allow you to plan ahead, and assist us in providing a professional service.

After reading this guide, if you have any further questions or queries about procedures, please refer to the [Rules of Court](#), any relevant [Practice Notes](#) and/or [Directions](#), or email the relevant section with your questions.

Party litigants should also refer to the guidance 'Party Litigants Guide', which is provided when given permission to raise an action in the Court of Session as a party litigant.

Guidance and information relating to the use of Civil Online which is currently only available for use by legal practitioners can be found [here](#) (*Civil Online – Court of Session*) and [here](#) (*Guidance note for Court Users, 1 December 2025*).

## Customers Comments & Suggestions

Comment cards are located at various points throughout the waiting areas within the Offices of Court. We encourage customers to fill one in if they have any feedback, comments or suggestions. Once completed, they should be placed in the red boxes, which are checked on a weekly basis. If you choose to put your name on the card, you will receive a direct response from a member of staff. However, if you prefer to remain anonymous, your comment will be displayed on the "You Said, We Did" white board located in the waiting area, along with a response.

## **OPENING HOURS and CONTACT DETAILS**

### **Telephone/Email**

Monday to Friday  
10am until 1pm  
2pm until 4pm

The office is closed between 1pm and 2pm. If your enquiry is urgent, please contact Parliament House Reception on **0131 225 2595**

### **Public Counter**

Monday to Friday  
10am until 1pm  
2pm until 4pm

**Please note the public counter is closed between 1pm and 2pm**

### **Appointments for Party Litigants**

If you are a party litigant and wish to speak to someone in person, we recommend arranging an appointment in advance. This allows us time to research your query and prepare any documents you may need to progress your action.

To arrange an appointment, please contact the appropriate section by email using the details below, outlining the assistance you require.

### **Contact details**

Ordinary and Family Department  
[gcs@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:gcs@scotcourts.gov.uk)

Personal Injury Department  
[personalinjuries@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:personalinjuries@scotcourts.gov.uk)

Petitions Department  
[petitions@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:petitions@scotcourts.gov.uk)

Inner House, Extracts  
[innerhouse@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:innerhouse@scotcourts.gov.uk)

## General Information

The Offices of the Court of Session are headed up by the Deputy Principal Clerk of Session, supported by the Depute in Charge and The Keeper of the Rolls.

The Offices consist of the:

- Ordinary, Family Department
- Personal Injury Department
- Petition Department
- Inner House, Extracts & Commercial Department
- Sheriff Appeal Court (SAC)
- Keepers and Court Motions Team (KMT)
- Scottish Lands Tribunals and Scottish Lands Court

You can identify what sort of action you have, as follows:

Action Type	Reference starts with
Ordinary	COS - A
Family	COS - F
Commercial	COS -CA
Personal Injury	COS - PD
Petition	COS - P
Inner House	COS - XA
Sheriff Appeal Court	Please check with department
Scottish Land Court	SLC
Scottish Lands Tribunal	SLT

Processes are governed by [Rule of Court 4.4](#) and consist of the following main parts:

- 1) Principal Summons/Petition/Appeal

- 2) Certified Copy Summons/Petition/Appeal
- 3) Interlocutor Sheers
- 4) Motion Sheets
- 5) Minute of Proceedings
- 6) Productions for the Pursuer/Petitioner/Appellant
- 7) Productions for the Defender/Respondent

Every process has an Inventory of Process, which lists all the documents lodged.

### **New Summons/Petition/Appeal**

New Summonses, Petitions and Appeals must be emailed to the relevant section inbox as a PDF file. No hard copy documents will be accepted.

### **Urgent Summons/Petition**

You must phone or email the relevant section to advise them you have an urgent case to be signetted/registered, before emailing the department.

You must also inform the Keepers Office, or alternatively the Commercial Clerks if it is a Summons for Commercial Action or a Petition under the Companies Act, if a hearing is required.

### **Forms**

All of Court of Session [forms](#) are available on the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service website.

### **Phoning**

When you contact the office by phone about an action, please ensure you have the case reference number and case name ready. If no one is able to pick up your call, please email the section to arrange a call back.

### **Lodging Documents**

Court processes are now fully electronic therefore all documents should be lodged as PDF documents

### **By email**

The covering email for any document(s) lodged in a court process (with the exception of letters and actual productions) must contain the case name, case reference number, agent's name and address. Alternatively, you may include a backing sheet to the document with that information.

If the document requires to be intimated, please confirm this has been done in the email attaching the file. This is to replicate the endorsement required by Rule 4.6(2) and defined in the Annotations to the Rules at 4.6.6

### **Via Civil Online**

When lodging a document via Civil Online, and the document required to be intimated, please use the box “add additional information (optional) within the upload document screen to confirm that has been done.

## **Productions – Lodging**

### **By email**

When lodging productions you must provide an Inventory of Productions for each bundle of productions lodged, e.g. 6/1-7. All productions must be emailed to the relevant section. The Inventory of Productions and the production documents themselves must be lodged in separate PDF files.

If the productions are over 20MB (including the email) then a workspace through Objective Connect can be opened by the court for the documents to be added to. Please contact the appropriate section to arrange this.

### **Via Civil Online**

Civil Online allows document file sizes of up to 125MB. If productions are over this limit, a workspace through Objective Connect can be opened by the court for the documents to be added to. Please contact the appropriate section to arrange this.

Please note that Civil Online requires you to lodge inventories and the productions themselves at the same time in order to proceed.

## **Productions - Borrowing**

To borrow out productions, ask for the action you require, and specific number of production(s). You will be required to fill out a borrowing receipt (only if hard copy) so we can keep track of the productions. When you borrow out productions they become the responsibility of your firm. The Inventory of Productions can be emailed if they are electronic documents and do not require a borrowing receipt to be completed. To return hard copy productions, you must ensure they are securely fastened and in numerical order. Counter staff will collect the process, and mark the productions as returned.

## **Productions – Finally Uplifting (Only if hard copy)**

When an action is disposed of, the process will be placed into a buff folder ready to be stored in the Records Office. Before a process can be transmitted to Records, agents are required to finally uplift their productions as they are no

longer required by the court. You should check all of your productions are there and leave a receipt to indicate these have been uplifted.

Any electronic productions uploaded to ICMS will automatically be deleted 42 days after the Date of Decree if the case status is 'Disposed'. This is in line with SCTS Data Retention Guidance. Any inventory of productions is retained.

### **Ordering Up a Process**

Once an action has finished in court, it will be transmitted to the Records Office, where it is stored for 5 years before being transferred to the National Records of Scotland (NRS). If you require a process which is in the Records Office, email the relevant section with the case details and this can be ordered up.

Processes indexed more than 5 years ago will be at NRS. Email the relevant section to order the process for you. It can take a few days for the process to be delivered to the offices, so please ensure to order in advance. If you require the process urgently, please inform staff.

### **Certified Copy Interlocutor (CCI)**

Agents are required to make up the CCI themselves. A CCI must include the instance of the Summons/Petition/Appeal/Note, and a copy of the Interlocutor you wish to be certified. It should be headed up as "Certified Copy Interlocutor" and emailed as a PDF document to the relevant section.

Staff will check your CCI exactly matches the principal documents, and edit it to include who it was signed by (either the clerk or the Lord Ordinary) along with inserting the Court stamp and electronically signing and certifying the CCI as a true copy.

### **Confidential Envelopes**

#### **Hard copies**

Once you have received the Interlocutor granting uplift of the confidential envelope, email the relevant section to request the envelope for borrowing. If hard copy, the counter staff can arrange for this to be uplifted at the counter. Counter staff will pass you the confidential envelope, along with the Inventory of Process in which you should leave a receipt to show you have uplifted the envelope.

#### **Electronic copies**

If the confidential envelope has been lodged electronically, an invite will be sent to your email address for Objective Connect in order to download the confidential envelope.

## Extracts

Your firm will give you a Note to the Extractor, Form 7.1, which you should email to the relevant section. Explain you require an extract and advise the date the action finished. If everything is in order, this will require to be emailed to [innerhouse@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:innerhouse@scotcourts.gov.uk), copy of the final interlocutor, form 7.1 and any copies of account of expenses and auditors reports (if any).

## Ordinary, Family, Commercial & Personal Injury

### Callings

To lodge a case for calling, you need to present the signeted Summons with the Execution of Service included at the back of the Summons, and a calling slip.

Staff will check the service of the Summons, and the details on the calling slip. You will then be advised upon which day the case will call.

Please see below for the calling days:

<b>Lodged for Calling</b>	<b>Case Calls</b>
Mon 12:30pm – Tues 12:30pm	Thursday
Tues 12:30pm – Wed 12:30pm	Friday
Wed 12:30pm – Fri 12:30pm	Tuesday
Fri 12:30pm – Mon 12:30pm	Wednesday

These days may vary during vacation period. Notification will be given in the Rolls of Court regarding calling days.

### Defences

Defences are the defender's pleadings in answer to the summons. Defences are due no later than 7 days after the case has called. Defences must be signed on the last page by counsel and emailed to the relevant section.

## Commercial Actions

[Practice Note 1 of 2017](#) was published in relation to Commercial Actions. Please refer to this for guidance.

Commercial Actions are not part of the KMT, so motions must be in Form 23.2. However, motions are accepted via email. Please email commercial motions into the generic inboxes:

Commercial Section – [gcs@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:gcs@scotcourts.gov.uk)

# Petition Department

## Lodging a Petition

The following parts of process must be lodged when presenting a new Petition for registering, lodged as PDF documents:

- 1) Petition
- 2) Certified Copy Petition
- 3) Inventory of Productions (if applicable)
  - Inventory of Process
  - Walling Copy

Any backing sheets should be marked up with the agent's name, address and productions numbered. Alternatively, please ensure this information is contained in a covering email when lodging documents.

If your Petition is accepted and registered, you will receive a registration document via email stating that your firm has lodged the Petition and the date it has been registered.

## Judicial Reviews

Please note the time limit for lodging a Judicial Review is 3 months from the date of the decision/action.

Please see Rule of Court [Chapter 58](#) and the Court of Session [Practice Note No.5 of 2015](#) for further information and guidance on Judicial Reviews.

## First Orders

The usual practice for Petitions after they are registered is to go to the Clerk of Court for First Orders. This means that the Petition is considered as to whether an Interlocutor can be granted for Intimation and Service of the Petition. This step is automatic, so a motion is not required, unless you are seeking any other orders.

## Execution of Service

An Execution of Service should be lodged once service has been executed. Certain types of Petitions have a time limit for lodging the Execution of Service, such as Judicial Reviews. If you are enrolling to grant the Prayer of a Petition, then the Execution of Service must be lodged.

## **Answers**

In a Petition, Answers are usually due 21 days after service, however this can vary for different types of Petitions, so please ensure to check the Interlocutor. If your Answers are late, a motion will be required to allow late lodging.

## **Lodging a Note**

A Note is basically a Petition within a Petition.

The following parts of process must be lodged when presenting a new Note for registering:

- Note
- Certified Copy Note
- Inventory of Productions (if applicable)
- Motion
- Walling Copy

As Notes are lodged within the original process, the section manager will number up the Note, CC Note and productions. Please be aware that the Note will be given a new case reference number.

## **Reference Number & Case Name**

Please ensure you have the case reference number when emailing or phoning the Petitions Department. Petition actions are not necessarily filed under the name of the petitioner, especially for company petitions, so having the case reference number will assist staff in locating the correct process.

## **Adoption and Permanence Orders**

The Petition Department also deal with both Adoption and Permanence Orders. Due to the highly confidential nature of these types of actions, they are not entered onto our case management system. Please ensure you have the case name, and initials of the child(ren) when emailing the section.

## **Caveats**

Caveats are lodged with the Petition Department. When you lodge your Caveat, staff will check the form has been filled in correctly and has been signed. Please note that the Court of Session does not deal with sequestrations any longer, so, if this is stated on your Caveat you will be advised that the court does not cover this type of action.

A style for Caveats can be found under Rule of Court [5.2](#).

Alternatively, legal professionals who are registered to use Civil Online can use the Online Caveat Portal. The portal is the preferred method of submission to the court.

### **Renewals**

Caveats remain active for a year, and often agents choose to renew a Caveat as opposed to lodging a new one. When renewing a Caveat, please state the previous Caveat reference number as this will assist the department when putting on the Caveat. The renewal will become active the day after the previous Caveat has expired.

### **Caveat Receipts**

Caveat receipts are issued once the caveat has been registered and the receipt will be emailed to the email address the caveat has been sent in by.

## Inner House & Extracts Department

Inner House & Extracts deal with actions from the Outer House that have been reclaimed, along with appeals from other courts, e.g. Tribunals.

### Reclaiming Motion

When enrolling a reclaiming motion, this must be done at the original section in the Outer House. Staff will check your motion is on time, and lodge the Reclaiming Prints. Time limits for lodging a reclaiming motion vary, so check your firm has informed you of the last day for enrolling. Please see [Rule of Court 38.2](#) for time limits.

If leave to reclaim is required, a motion seeking leave must be enrolled at the original section. If leave to reclaim is granted you will then be able to proceed to lodge Reclaiming Prints.

The Reclaiming Print must contain a contents page, the most up to date pleadings, copies of all Interlocutors of the cause and, if applicable, a copy of the Opinion.

Please note that, when cases are reclaimed, in the event that the Outer House were lodged in hard copy, they must be borrowed out by parties before the process can be transmitted to the Inner House section. This is not required for electronic productions, which will be transferred via the court's case management system when a reclaiming motion is accepted for lodging.

### New Appeal

When lodging a new Appeal, the Inner House section require the principal Appeal and certified copy Appeal, along with the other usual parts of process.

### New Leave to Appeal

When lodging a new Leave to Appeal, the Inner House section require the principal Leave to Appeal and a certified copy, along with the usual parts of process.

### Single Bill

A motion in the Inner House is referred to as a Single Bill. Motions must be enrolled in Form 23.2. A Single Bill in an Appeal is heard before 3 Inner House Judges; in Leave to Appeal actions the hearing is before 1 Inner House Judge.

## **Hearings**

Please note, Inner House business takes priority over Outer House business, therefore agents are not able to simply discharge and re-fix an Inner House hearing due to counsel having other business in the Outer House that day.

The Inner House & Extracts Department also deal with the following:

## **Simplified Divorces**

- Forms for the different types of Simplified Divorces are available on the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service website.

## **Copy Divorce Extract**

- When requesting a copy of a divorce extract, please ensure the divorce took place at the Court of Session. After 1984 divorces were able to take place at Sheriff Courts;
- Please provide the names of the individuals, and the date of divorce. If you have not got the exact date, please provide an approximate year.

## **Calling-Up Notices**

- These should come in with a covering letter, the principal Calling-Up Notice, along with a copy. The copy notice will be endorsed and returned to you; the principal copy is kept by the Court. There is a 24 hour turn around for processing Calling-Up Notices.

## Sheriff Appeal Court (Civil)

The Sheriff Appeal Court (SAC) deals with actions in which an appeal is lodged against the decision of a sheriff.

### New Appeal

A new appeal is made by lodging a note of appeal on Form 6.2 typically within 28 days of the date of the sheriff's decision. Where a copy of the sheriff's note is available, a copy should be appended along with a copy of the interlocutor containing the decision appealed against.

### Lodging Documents

All documents, including new notes of appeal should be lodged by email to [SAC.civil@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:SAC.civil@scotcourts.gov.uk). Any electronic document will be deemed to have been lodged with the Court on the date when the email with the document is received at the aforementioned email address. This email inbox will be monitored during working hours. No document should be sent by post or via document exchange until further notice.

No hard copy document will be accepted unless the Court has made a specific order, such as in relation to the fixing of an in-person or hybrid hearing. This relates to documents submitted by post, document exchange or at the public counter by parties or their representatives.

### Electronic Motions

Electronic motions must be enrolled with the SAC on Form 14.1 before 12.30 on court day 4. All parties within the appeal **must** be registered for the transacting of business electronically in the Sheriff Appeal Court. The list of parties registered for electronic intimation can be found on our website here:

<https://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/appeals/civil-appeals/sheriff-appeal-court-civil-electronic-intimation-register/>

Chapter 14 of the Sheriff Appeal Court Rules 2021 sets out the procedure to be followed for the electronic submission of motions.

### Written Motions

Written motions by other means must be enrolled with the SAC on Form 15.1 along with a certificate of intimation on Form 6.5-A Chapter 15 of the Sheriff Appeal Court Rules 2021 sets out the procedure to be followed for the lodging of written motions.

## **Permission to Appeal to the Court of Session**

An application for permission to appeal to the Court of Session should be made on Form 12.2 and lodged with the SAC within 14 days after the date on which the Court gave its decision on the appeal.

Please note that an application to appeal to the Court of Session must meet the requirements as set out in Section 113(2) of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014.

## **Fees**

The Sheriff Appeal Court Fees Order can be found on our website here:

<http://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/taking-action/court-fees>

## **SAC New Court User's Guide**

The Sheriff Appeal Court *New Court User's Guide* can be found on our website here:

<https://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/media/eexlrhvh/new-court-users-guide.pdf>

## Scottish Land Court/Lands Tribunal for Scotland

The Scottish Land Court deals with actions that typically involve crofting and agricultural holdings however it has several other jurisdictions. More information can be found here: <http://www.scottish-land-court.org.uk/about/jurisdiction>

The Lands Tribunal for Scotland deals with a diverse variety of actions relating to title conditions, the land register, compensation for public works and others. More information can be found here: <https://www.lands-tribunal-scotland.org.uk/about/specific-statutory-jurisdictions>

### Lodging Documents

All documents should be lodged by post or email to [SLCourtMailbox@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:SLCourtMailbox@scotcourts.gov.uk) or [LTS\\_Mailbox@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:LTS_Mailbox@scotcourts.gov.uk) (depending on the type of action). Any electronic document will be deemed to have been lodged with the Court on the date when the email with the document is received at the aforementioned email address. This email inbox will be monitored during working hours.

### Fees

The fees for Scottish Land Court applications can be found here: <http://www.scottish-land-court.org.uk/using/fees>

The fees for Lands Tribunal for Scotland applications can be found here: <https://www.lands-tribunal-scotland.org.uk/using/fees>

### SLC/LTS User Guides

We recommend that all prospective users of the Court and Tribunal familiarise themselves with the information contained on our websites that explain what to expect during the process. We also have a DIY Guide for those who are new to litigation. These can be found here:

SLC: <http://www.scottish-land-court.org.uk/using/making-an-application>

LTS: <https://www.lands-tribunal-scotland.org.uk/using/making-an-application>

DIY Guide to Litigation:

<http://www.scottish-land-court.org.uk/pdf/PlainGuideToLitigation.pdf>

## Court Motions

For agents signed up to the electronic motions scheme, motions may be enrolled via email for Personal Injury, Ordinary and Family actions.

Any party who is not signed up this scheme should refer to the guidance '[Old Style motions – Form 23.2](#)'.

The scheme allows for the following arrangements:

- Enrolling motions by email;
- Advising agents by email when an opposed/starred motion will be heard in court so arrangements can be made by agents for counsel to appear;
- Allow for the disposal of routine motions by CMT on the date of enrolment;
- Email a copy of the interlocutor to agents;
- Email out updated timetables and/or events created in relation to the motion.

### Email Addresses

Motions should be enrolled by emailing:

[courtofsession.motions@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:courtofsession.motions@scotcourts.gov.uk)

All motions must be intimated to the generic email addresses of all parties involved within the action prior to enrolling. A [list of all agents](#) signed up to the electronic motions scheme is available on the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service website.

### Forms

Motions Form 23.1C

Opposition Form 23.1D

### Dispensing with intimation

Any motion seeking to dispense with the period of intimation must be of consent by other parties. Consent must be obtained and marked on the motion accordingly, and attached when the motion is enrolled. Further guidance is available [here](#).

## Timeline for Un-starred Motions

<b>Day 1 by 5pm</b>	Motion intimated to all parties within the action
<b>Day 3 by 5pm</b>	Any opposition to the motion is intimated to the party enrolling the motion
<b>Day 4 by 12:30pm</b>	Motion & opposition or consent, enrolled with court
<b>Day 4 by 5pm</b>	Interlocutor drafted & sent to agents if non-judge motion. Interlocutors that require to be considered and signed by a judge will normally be issued the following day, <b>Day 5</b>

## Old-style Motions – Form 23.2

Motions enrolled in Commercial, Inner House and Petition actions must be in Form 23.2. This also applies if an agent or party litigant is not part of the CMT.

### Enrolling

Motions in Form 23.2 can be enrolled by emailing the relevant section.

### Time limits

- Motions must be enrolled in normal business hours.
- Motions will be considered 2 days after they are enrolled, where possible;
- Oppositions must be in Form 23.4. The deadline for opposing an old-style motion is by 12:30pm the day after enrolment of the motion;
- If a motion is opposed, it becomes a Starred Motion. Opposing agents should inform the court of the estimated length of the opposed motion hearing; this will assist the Keepers Office when allocating.

## Starred and Opposed Motions

When an opposition to a motion or an automatic starred motion is lodged during term time, the Keeper's Office will allocate the motion to call **2 days ahead from the enrolment of the opposed or starred motion.**

**Parties must advise the Keepers Office by contacting [keepers@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:keepers@scotcourts.gov.uk) as soon as possible if the date on which the motion is calling is not suitable.**

## The Keeper's Office

The Weekly Rolls are published each Thursday to show business for the week ahead. The information within the Weekly Rolls contains information on allocated business for Inner House, Commercial and Family Judges. It also lists business for civil Outer House Judges and all business that is yet to be allocated to a particular Judge.

The Keeper's Office retains 12 weeks of archived copies of the Weekly Rolls of court. Anyone requiring an archived copy should email the Keeper's Office [keepers@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:keepers@scotcourts.gov.uk)

The Daily Business Rolls are published daily within the Court of Session Rolls page and is a live document which is updated throughout the day as hearings, such as opposed or starred motions, are allocated to Judges.

The Daily Rolls contain information for the following days' business and details the allocation of hearings in both the Inner and Outer House.

The Keeper's Office is responsible for the fixing of substantive diets within the Outer Houses.

Certain diets can be fixed to accommodate the diaries of counsel representing parties. Representatives on behalf of all parties must complete a Court of Session fixing form and email the completed form to the Keeper's fixing inbox – [keepersfixing@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:keepersfixing@scotcourts.gov.uk)

The Court of Session fixing form and guidance on how to complete it can be found on the SCTS website – <https://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/courts-and-tribunals/the-supreme-courts/office-of-the-keeper-of-the-rolls/>

Proofs in Ordinary actions with a duration of 4 days or less will be fixed for the first available date and not fixed to suit counsels' diaries.

## Glossary of Terms

<b>Abandonment</b>	A procedure by which a party gives up civil proceedings or an appeal
<b>Absolvitor</b>	The judgment pronounced when a court decides in favour of a party against whom an action has been raised
<b>Action</b>	Proceedings raised by a person in a civil court, seeking enforcement of a legal right
<b><i>Ad Interim</i></b>	In the meantime
<b>Adjust</b>	To alter the written basis of an action in its early stages
<b>Advising</b>	When a judgment of the Court of Session is delivered/issued
<b>Advocate</b>	A member of the Scottish Bar
<b>Affidavit</b>	A signed statement, made under oath
<b>Aliment</b>	Support or maintenance of a spouse or child enforceable by law
<b>Answers</b>	Statement setting out factual and legal response of a party to proceedings raised against him or her
<b>Appeal</b>	Re-hearing of a case by a higher court than the court that first heard the case. This is the Inner House at the Court of Session
<b>Appearance</b>	The formal act where by the defender in an action intimates intention to defend
<b>Assolizies</b>	To absolve or decide finally in favour of the defender
<b><i>Avizandum</i></b>	To be considered. Judgment is deferred, an oral or written decision to be given later
<b>By Order</b>	A hearing of a case put out at the request of the court

<b>Calling List</b>	List of cases calling in the Court of Session that day
<b>Caution</b>	Security in civil matters
<b>Caveat</b>	A legal document lodged by a party so certain orders or ruling affecting them may not be granted in their absence without receiving prior notification
<b>Conclusion</b>	Statements in a Summons stating the precise order(s) sought
<b>Condescendence</b>	Part of the pursuer's written case which contains a statement of the facts on which they rely
<b>Counsel</b>	A member of the Faculty of Advocates practising at the Scottish Bar
<b>Decern</b>	Final Decree or Judgment, formerly, but no longer necessary, to warrant the issue of an extract copy of the Judgment
<b>Decree</b>	Common term for the final judgment
<b>Defences</b>	The defender's written answers to the summons of the pursuer
<b>Defender</b>	A person who disputes the claim of the pursuer and lodges defences
<b>Diet</b>	Date for hearing of a case for any one of a variety of purposes, fixed by the Court
<b>Extract</b>	Written instrument signed by the Extractor, containing a statement of a decree and, if necessary, a warrant to charge the debtor and to execute all competent diligence against person or property
<b>Inner House</b>	The Civil Appeal Court
<b>Instance</b>	The part of the Summons or Writ in which the parties to the action are identified
<b>Interlocutor</b>	A formal order made by a court containing its decision

<b>Interdict</b>	A court order preventing someone from doing something
<b>Inventory of Process</b>	List of all documents lodged within the court process
<b>Judgment</b>	Decision of a court setting out its reasons, called an Opinion
<b>Lord Ordinary</b>	The title of a judge sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session
<b>Messenger-at-Arms</b>	Officers whose function it is to execute civil warrants of the Court of Session
<b>Motion</b>	An application made in court to ask for an order during the course of an action
<b>Note</b>	Form of application to the court in existing proceedings
<b>Opinion</b>	Statement by a court or Judge setting out reasons for the decisions in a case
<b>Outer House</b>	Deals with first instance business in civil actions
<b>Petition</b>	A document by which court proceedings are initiated
<b>Plea-in-Law</b>	A short proposition at the end of a written case showing the legal remedy sought
<b>Process</b>	Court papers relating to a case
<b>Production</b>	An article produced and lodged as evidence
<b>Proof</b>	Hearing of evidence and legal submissions before a single judge, no jury
<b>Proof Before Answer</b>	Hearing of evidence on the facts before questions of law are determined
<b>Prorogate</b>	Continue or extend; further time is allowed to do something

required by the court

<b>Pursuer</b>	Person suing in an action
<b>Record</b>	Statements of parties' respective claims lodged in the process. In Ordinary Actions - after pleadings have been finally adjusted, a Closed Record is then lodged. In Personal Injury Actions – the Record is lodged by the date set in a timetable
<b>Repone</b>	To restore a defender to position as a litigant when decree in absence has been given against them
<b>Rolls</b>	Official list of cases set down for a hearing. Published by the Keepers Office
<b>Signet</b>	Seal of the Court of Session. Applied to a Summons as authority to serve the Summons upon the defender(s)
<b>Sist</b>	(i) To stay/stop/pause a process  (ii) To summon or call as a party
<b>Starred Motion</b>	A motion in the Court of Session for which appearance is required
<b>Summons</b>	Form of a writ in the Court of Session issued in name of the sovereign and containing a Royal mandate to Messenger-at-Arms to cite the defender to the Court of Session
<b>Vexatious litigant</b>	A person who takes proceedings primarily for the annoyance or embarrassment of the defender and whose activities in raising actions may be restrained by the Court of Session

A fuller list of definitions can be found on the Judiciary of Scotland website, which can be found [here](#).















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Petition Department	0131 240 6747
Inner House, Commercial & Extracts	0131 240 6748
Sheriff Appeal Court	0131 240 6888
Keepers Office	0131 240 6794
Court Motion Team	0131 240 6722

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If you have anything you think would be useful to add  
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