



**USFLMD PRO SE HANDBOOK
SECTION II: DEFINITIONS
(ALL-IN-ONE DOCUMENT)**

US DISTRICT COURT, FLORIDA, MIDDLE DISTRICT
{LAST UPDATE: 3/1/2019}

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PRO SE HANDBOOK
FROM THE US DISTRICT COURT, FLORIDA, MIDDLE DISTRICT

SECTION II DEFINITIONS

ITEMS 2.01 through 2.14



2.01 | ACTION

An action is, collectively, the claims a party asserts in a pleading.



2.02 | ANSWER

An answer is the response to a complaint. In that document, the defendant states defenses and, for each allegation in the complaint, admits it, denies it, or states he is without knowledge of it.



2.03 | CASE

A case is the content of the docket in an action (for example, if remand occurs, the action returns to state court, but the case remains in federal court).



2.04 | CLAIM OR CLAIM FOR RELIEF

A claim or "claim for relief" is the basis for relief a party asserts in a count of a pleading and is similar to the state court term "cause of action."



2.05 | COMPLAINT

A complaint is the document that gets the lawsuit started. In that document, the plaintiff states a claim or claims, a demand specifying the relief sought, the facts supporting the claim or claims, and the bases for the court's jurisdiction (in other words, the court's authority to decide the action).



2.06 | DEFENDANT

A defendant is the party being sued.



2.07 | DISCOVERY

Discovery is the process by which parties collect information from each other and "discover" facts about the dispute.



2.08 | DOCKET

The docket is a chronological list of each court event and document in the case.



2.09 | JUDGE

The judge is the person who presides over the action. In the Middle District of Florida, each case is randomly assigned a United States District Judge and a United States Magistrate Judge.



2.10 | JUDGMENT

A judgment is the final action by the court that ends the case in the district court.



2.11 | LAWSUIT

A lawsuit, also called an action, is a legal claim or accusation that one person or entity makes against another in a court to get resolution from the court. Usually, a lawsuit begins when someone files a complaint.



2.12 | LITIGANT

A litigant, also known as a party, is a person or entity in the lawsuit.



2.13 | MEDIATION

A mediation is a settlement conference. A certified, qualified mediator presides over a mediation. The goal of a mediation is to settle the action. The Local Rules require most litigants to participate in mediation.



2.14 | MOTION

A motion is a request to the court for some relief. An example is a motion for an extension of a deadline.



2.15 | ORDER

An order is an action by the judge directing someone to do something or deciding a matter.



2.16 | PLAINTIFF

A plaintiff is the party suing.



2.17 | PRO SE LITIGANT

A pro se litigant is a person who proceeds in court without the help of a lawyer.



APPENDIX



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ORIGINAL SOURCE

<u>#</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Link</u>
1	Original Source	https://FLMD.USCourts.gov

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