

SMALL CLAIMS DEFENDANT

You are Being Sued!

Please note:

- If you fail to appear at the Initial Hearing (First Setting), a Default Judgment will be entered.
- If you fail to appear for the Proceedings Supplemental, (usually the next scheduled hearing), a **Rule to Show Cause** (Contempt) hearing will be set.
- If you fail to appear for the Contempt hearing, a **Warrant** will be issued for your **arrest**.

When a Court hearing is set, **MAKE SURE YOU SHOW UP!** If you are told by the other party or attorney that you do not need to appear, ask for an Order signed by the Judge, stating that the matter has been continued.

If you are not familiar with the Small Claims Rules, you can get a copy of the Local Rules from the Clerk. You can also look them up on the Porter County Web Site at www.porterco.org.

You always have the right to see the Judge!

You are under no obligation to sign an agreement with the opposing party. If you do not feel you owe the debt, or need to address any other issues, you have the right to argue your case before a Judge.

Plaintiff (the party suing you) has the burden to prove their case by a preponderance of the evidence.

You have the right to be treated with respect. Owing money does not make you a criminal.

NOTE: There is a big difference between those that are *unable* to pay and those that are able **but refuse** to pay a debt owed.