

STATE OF MAINE

Recovery of Personal Property Information Sheet

You have been served with a summons and complaint in a case brought against you by someone (“the plaintiff”) seeking the return of personal property said to be in your possession or under your control. Please read this form to understand the court process and how to defend yourself in your case.

If you do not take action in this case, you could lose possession of the personal property in dispute in this case. You have the right to be represented by an attorney, but the court will not provide you with an attorney for this type of case. You can hire an attorney or, if you qualify, you may be able to get free legal help. Contact information for free legal help is given below. **To ask for free legal help, please contact one of these legal service groups as far ahead of your court date as possible.**

Court Proceedings

Step One: Telephonic Status Conference - The first court event in this case is a telephone conference. The Summons and Complaint or the Scheduling Notice received with this Information Sheet tells you the date and time of the phone conference and the number to call. All court notices are sent to the address listed on the complaint. **If you get your mail at a different address you should tell the Court right away.**

When you call, you will meet by phone with a judge and the other party, or the other party’s attorney, or both. At the phone conference, the judge will talk with both sides to decide what happens next in your case. If you and the other party have an agreement, this call is the time to talk about that agreement with the judge. If you do not have an agreement, the judge may schedule the case for mediation or a hearing. You may tell the court if you prefer to attend future court events by phone or by video.

Step Two: Mediation - Mediation is a process where a person approved by the court tries to help the parties come to an agreement. This person is called a mediator. A mediator is trained to work with parties to reach an agreement without taking sides. Mediation is held by phone or by video. Mediation might not be scheduled in all cases for recovery of personal property.

Step Three: Hearing - If your case is scheduled for a hearing, the court will send you a notice with the date and time for that court event. Most hearings will be in person at the courthouse, unless you and the other party agree, or one of you asks, to attend remotely by phone or video, and the judge approves your agreement or one party’s request. If you want to attend remotely, but cannot send a written request, please call the court at 207 ____ - ____.

Legal Help Available: You may seek free legal assistance by calling:

Pine Tree Legal Assistance (free for low income tenants):

207-774-8211 during the following hours:

Monday	12:00- 2:30
Tuesdays	9:00 – 11:30
Thursday	9:00 – 11:30
Friday	9:00 – 11:30

Legal Services for the Elderly (free for those 60 and older)

1-800-750-5353

Weekly Information Session: Pine Tree Legal Assistance holds weekly eviction information sessions. Join to learn more about the eviction process in Maine.

When: Tuesdays at 9:00 am.

To Join:

- (a) Go to ptla.org/fed for telephone or internet/video options OR
- (b) Install the Zoom app on your smartphone and scan this code with your smartphone camera:



When you scan this code, you will be asked for your name and email address. No-one will use that information for any purpose, and it will not be tracked in anyway.

Questions about the above, or need an interpreter? Call the court at ____ - ____.