



دائرة القضاء
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

ADJD Services Small Claims Court



The Emirate of Abu Dhabi court system consists of three levels: courts of first instance, courts of appeal, and court of cassation. The Judicial Council has established specialized courts to consider specific disputes under certain terms of reference.

The Abu Dhabi Judicial Department offers a Small Claims Court with jurisdiction over certain civil, commercial, and labor disputes. Abu Dhabi Decision No. 41/2021 On the Simple Claims Court, issued on October 14, 2021, further defines, describes, and refines the court.

To summarize, the court is a fast-track mechanism in Abu Dhabi for lower-value claims incorporating: (i) the appointment of experts; (ii) the issuance of judgments, and (iii) the right of appeal.

Jurisdiction

A claimant may sue in the Abu Dhabi Small Claims Court if the claim is civil, commercial, or labor-related and valued at less than AED 1,000,000.

The jurisdiction of the Small Claims Court does not extend to claims to which the State is a party, summary claims, or payment orders.

Experts

A technical expert may be requested but is not required. The deposit for expert fees will initially be 3% of the claim's value if it is not less than AED 2000.

If an expert is appointed, a hearing will be scheduled no more than days after the expert report is received. The court may allow the expert to give his opinion orally without the need for a full written report.



Judgment

A session to hear the claim will be scheduled no more than 15 days from the date of filing the statement of claim, and a judgment will be issued in the same session scheduled to hear the claim.

Appeals

Judgments can be appealed to the Court of Appeal if the claim value exceeds AED 500,000. The decision issued on the appeal shall not be reversed and is final.

The Court of Appeal will issue its decision within five working days from the date of filing the appeal.

Filing a case

Most cases can be registered through the digital services available on the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department website www.adjd.gov.ae which contains samples of claim forms. Lawsuits can also be filed through licensed law firms in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi or some typing offices. Most of the sessions are held remotely.

The establishment of this court is significant to claimants seeking a quick resolution of lower value claims which might otherwise be impossible to pursue due to the length and cost of regular court proceedings.





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For further information, you can contact ADJD directly through the following channels:

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