



# Understanding Motions for Summary Judgment

A motion for summary judgment asks the court to decide an issue without a trial. It argues that the important facts are not truly in dispute, so the judge can simply apply the law.

## How it works

- 1 The Motion.** One party explains why no trial is needed on certain issues.
- 2 Supporting Evidence.** The motion is backed by sworn statements, documents, and discovery responses.
- 3 The Response.** The other party generally has 30 days to respond with evidence showing a real dispute.
- 4 The Decision.** The judge decides whether a genuine dispute about important facts remains.
- 5 Partial Rulings.** The court may decide some issues and leave others for trial.

## When it is used

**Good Fit.** Issues that turn on documents or the law, such as the meaning of a written agreement.

**Poor Fit.** Custody issues rarely resolve this way because they depend on disputed facts and the child's best interests.

**Hearings.** A party can generally request a hearing on this type of motion.

## What to keep in mind

If important facts are truly disputed, a trial is still available.

Even when denied, the motion can narrow the issues and clarify each side's position.

Sworn statements must be accurate and complete.

This guide provides general information about summary judgment in Georgia family law matters and is not legal advice about your specific case. Your attorney will explain how summary judgment applies to your situation.

## YOUR ROLE

Help us gather documents quickly, review any sworn statement carefully before signing, and tell us about any facts you believe are in dispute.

## QUESTIONS?

As always, all questions and requests should be directed to the team via email to [team@pepitone.law](mailto:team@pepitone.law).