

NOTICE TO SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO TRCP 166a SUMMARY JUDGMENT RULE (Effective March 1, 2026)

The Supreme Court of Texas has adopted a comprehensive rewrite of Rule 166a governing summary judgment practice. These changes affect the timing and handling of dispositive motions and **apply to motions for summary judgment filed on or after March 1, 2026**.

WHAT THIS MEANS

A summary judgment motion asks the Court to decide a case (or part of a case) **without a trial**, usually because one side believes there are no important facts in dispute.

The rules for **summary judgment motions** in Texas courts have changed. These changes affect how quickly you must respond and how the Court handles these motions.

KEY CHANGES YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. Deadlines Are Based on When the Motion Is Filed

- You must file your response **within 21 days after the motion is filed**
- The other side may file a reply **within 7 days after your response**

2. The Court Will Set the Motion

- The Court will set the motion for a **hearing or a submission (no hearing)**
- The earliest it can be set is **35 days after filing**

3. The Court Must Issue a Decision

- Court must issue a written ruling **within 90 days** after the hearing or submission

4. Evidence Rules

- You must include any evidence you want the Court to consider
- You may refer to documents already filed in the case

Important Things to Remember

- **Do not wait for a hearing date** to calculate your deadline
- Your **deadline starts when the motion is filed**, not when it is heard
- Motions may be decided on submission (**without an in-person hearing**)
- **Evidence is not presented at a hearing**. The Court considers only the written motion, response, and properly filed evidence.
- **If you do not file a timely response with supporting evidence**, the Court may decide a motion **without your input** and **may rule against you**, which can end your case (or part of it) without a trial.

Need Help?

If you are representing yourself, you may wish to:

- Review the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure
- Consider consulting an attorney
- Review other information re: "Self-Representation" at [CCCAL5 Website](#)
- Visit [TexasLawHelp.org](https://www.texaslawhelp.org)

The Court provides this information to help parties understand the updated process and deadlines. It is not legal advice.

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