



OLR RESEARCH REPORT

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SMALL CLAIMS COURT LIMITS

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You asked when Connecticut last increased the limit for small claims court actions and the limits in other states.

Connecticut last increased its limit for small claims actions in 2005, when [PA 05-42](#) increased the limit from \$3,500 to \$5,000. A higher limit applies in cases involving housing security deposits ([CGS § 51-15\(d\)](#)).

We compiled information on small claims courts in other states. These courts use different names in different states. Regardless of name, we looked at the court with the lowest jurisdictional limit in each state. We also focused on the general limit imposed on the court's jurisdiction, although states may have exceptions with higher or lower limits for specific types of claims.

Based on our survey, small claims court limits range from \$2,500 in Rhode Island to \$25,000 in Tennessee. Twenty-four states have a limit higher than Connecticut's. Connecticut and 16 other states have a \$5,000 limit. Nine states have a limit lower than Connecticut's. Table one displays the limits in each state, organized from highest to lowest.

**Table 1: Small Claims Court Limits in Each State
From Highest to Lowest**

<i>State</i>	<i>Limit</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Limit</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Limit</i>
Tennessee	\$25,000	Oklahoma	\$7,500	New York	\$5,000
Delaware	\$15,000	South Carolina	\$7,500	North Carolina	\$5,000
Georgia	\$15,000	Massachusetts	\$7,000	North Dakota	\$5,000
Pennsylvania	\$12,000	Montana	\$7,000	Vermont	\$5,000
South Dakota	\$12,000	Indiana	\$6,000	Virginia	\$5,000
Alaska	\$10,000	Maine	\$6,000	Washington	\$5,000
California	\$10,000	Wyoming	\$6,000	West Virginia	\$5,000
Illinois	\$10,000	Arkansas	\$5,000	Kansas	\$4,000
Minnesota*	\$10,000	Connecticut	\$5,000	Mississippi	\$3,500
New Mexico	\$10,000	Florida	\$5,000	Nebraska	\$3,500
Oregon	\$10,000	Hawaii	\$5,000	Alabama	\$3,000
Texas	\$10,000	Idaho	\$5,000	New Jersey	\$3,000
Utah	\$10,000	Iowa	\$5,000	Ohio	\$3,000
Wisconsin	\$10,000	Louisiana	\$5,000	Arizona	\$2,500
Colorado	\$7,500	Maryland	\$5,000	Kentucky	\$2,500
Nevada	\$7,500	Michigan**	\$5,000	Rhode Island	\$2,500
New Hampshire	\$7,500	Missouri	\$5,000		

*Minnesota's small claims court limit will increase to \$15,000 in August 2014.

**Michigan's small claims court limit will increase to \$5,500 in 2015, \$6,000 in 2018, \$6,500 in 2021, and \$7,000 in 2024.

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