

## DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

### OVERVIEW

A Declaratory Judgment establishes the rights and other legal relations of the parties without providing for enforcement. A Declaratory Judgment action attempts to settle and give relief from insecurity and uncertainty with respect to an individual's rights, status, and other equitable or legal relations. For example, if a vehicle is purchased and the Certificate of Title cannot be obtained from the previous owner, a judgment declaring ownership may be needed.

**Ask your librarian for additional resources.**

- Actions are filed in the court based on the value of the claim/property. Declaratory Judgment is in the jurisdiction of the trial court. See FL Statute 86.011.
- If the amount of the claim is for \$8,000 or less, then jurisdiction would be in Small Claims Court.
- If the amount of the claim is from \$8,001 to \$30,000, the jurisdiction would be in County Civil Court.

### RESOURCES IN THE JAMES J. LUNSFORD LAW LIBRARY

1. Florida Statutes Chapter 86 pertaining to Declaratory Judgments
2. Florida Civil Procedure: Pretrial Vol. 2. LexisNexis Practice Guide. See Chapter 16 (Declaratory Relief)
3. Florida Civil Practice Before Trial (The Florida Bar) LexisNexis. See Chapter 22 (Declaratory Relief)
4. Florida Causes of Action, James Publishing: Provides an outline of the elements necessary to uphold an action for a declaratory judgment, broken down by the different District Courts of Appeal with references to court decisions. See section 17:30
5. Declaratory Judgment Florida Statute and form packet- Contact Law Library for copies
6. GALE Legal Forms Database- may have non-Florida specific examples to use as a template
7. Westlaw is available for customer use at the following branches: James J. Lunsford Law Library, John F. Germany Library and Robert W. Saunders, Sr. Public Library

**NOTICE:** This research guide is based on information gathered from the resources cited above. For more information on this or other legal topics visit the James J. Lunsford Law Library.

**IF YOU ARE ACTING AS YOUR OWN ATTORNEY, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING THAT INVOLVES YOUR CASE.**

**Remember:** Check with the Clerk of the Court for filing fees/court costs.