

## INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR THE PREPARATION OF A COMPLAINT

1. The caption should be in the following format:

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

PLAINTIFF'S NAME,

v.

No. \_\_\_\_\_

THE UNITED STATES.

### COMPLAINT

2. Plaintiff must file the original complaint along with a completed cover sheet (see [Form 2, Appendix of Forms, Rules of the United States Court of Federal Claims \(RCFC\)](#)). If filing a bid protest complaint, please see [Appendix C, RCFC](#).

3. If filing in paper form, plaintiff must provide one copy of the complaint that includes an original signature. The complaint must be printed on letter-size paper with page numbers appearing in the bottom center margin of the page and must be bound along the left margin or in the upper left corner. The original complaint along with the filing fee must be mailed or hand delivered to:

Clerk, U.S. Court of Federal Claims  
717 Madison Place, NW, Room 103  
Washington, DC 20439

4. ***For Attorneys Only:***

If filing electronically via CM/ECF, please review the [Attorney Guide for Filing Complaints & Petitions in CM/ECF](#).

5. The complaint should identify the basis for the court's jurisdiction and provide citations to the underlying statutes, regulations, or constitutional provisions that mandate the payment of money or other authorized relief. If the complaint seeks a refund of federal taxes, see RCFC 9(m) for additional pleading requirements.
6. The facts upon which claims are based must be set forth in concise form in numbered paragraphs. The concluding paragraph should set forth a demand for judgment against the United States in X number of dollars.
7. The original complaint must contain the plaintiff's or the plaintiff's attorney's signature, name, address, telephone number, and date of signing and must be submitted along with a check in the amount of \$402.00, payable to "Clerk, U.S. Court of Federal Claims," in payment of the filing fee. If the plaintiff desires to file without payment of this fee, a completed [Application to Proceed In Forma Pauperis](#) must accompany the complaint.
8. Service on the United States will be made by the clerk, and the "Notice of Assignment" will show the assigned docket number. For service requirements in a bid protest case, please see paragraphs 10 and 11 of [Appendix C, RCFC](#). Subject to prior action by the court, the United States has 60 days from the file date to answer or otherwise respond to the complaint.