Understanding the Litigation Process

Statement of Claim Received

1 Pleadings

- Plaintiff files a Statement of Claim
- County files a Statement of Defence (within 20 days)
- Scope of issues and claimed damages are established
- Counterclaims may be filed where appropriate

2 Document Production & Discovery

- Relevant documents are exchanged
- Representatives participate in Examinations for Discovery under oath
- Facts and evidence are gathered and reviewed

3 Pre-Trial & Settlement Discussions

- Parties explore settlement opportunities
- Issues are narrowed before trial
- Pre-trial motions may be brought where appropriate

Many matters are resolved before reaching trial

4 Trial (if required)

- Evidence is presented before a judge (no jury)
- A binding decision is issued
- Appeals may be pursued where permitted

Important: Litigation can be a lengthy and complex process. Many matters are resolved through settlement or other dispute-resolution processes before proceeding to trial.

Legal & Support Services coordinates County involvement throughout the process in collaboration with insurers, adjusters, and legal counsel.