Civil litigation cases involve a private party (eg., a corporation or individual person) who files a law suit and becomes the plaintiff. Civil cases often involve large companies and large amounts being pursued. In general a losing defendant in civil litigation only reimburses the plaintiff for losses caused by the defendant's behaviour.

In a civil case under tort law, there is a possibility of punitive damages, if the defendant's conduct is egregious and either (1) a malicious intent (i.e., a desire to harm), (2) gross negligence (i.e., conscious indifference), or (3) a willful disregard for the rights of others.

Civil matters may also include:

- Personal injury claims
- Product liability
- Contracts
- De facto relationships
- Defamation
- Discrimination
- Family Law
- Misleading and deceptive conduct
- Product liability
- Unfair dismissal