

other side can continue to communicate with you. If you move, they will not look for you. If any of the information you gave the Court in your answer changes, send another letter with the new information to the Clerk with the case number and parties' names; make sure you include what was your address.

Once you have filed your answer, you may get other papers from the person who is suing you and notices from the court. If you do not understand these papers, or what will happen in court, you may want to contact an attorney as previously suggested. If you are not able to get legal help, the reference librarian at your local public library may be able to help you find useful legal self help information.

Although you do not have to mail the answer by certified mail, you may want to ask the post office to provide you with a Certificate of Mailing, which is proof you sent the answer to the person to whom it was addressed and the date it was mailed.

Within three days of mailing one copy to the attorney (or the person who filed the complaint against you), take the original of your Answer and your returning photocopy to the clerk of the court that served the papers on you. Be sure that you go to the right court. Take the complaint with you to the clerk's office and show it to the clerk to confirm that you are in the right office. Then give the clerk both your original Answer and your photocopy. Ask the clerk to file-stamp the original and the copy and to give you your copy back.

The clerk will then keep the original, which will go into the judge's file so that the judge can read it. The file-stamped photocopy will be returned to you. Keep your file-stamped copy in a safe place because it is your proof that you filed your Answer in the place and on the date indicated in the file stamp. It is like a receipt.

After you are done with all of that, the judge will have your Answer, the person who filed the complaint against you will have a copy of your Answer, and you will have a copy of your Answer with proof that you have filed the original with the Court. Everyone will know where you stand and that you are fighting the complaint. The Court will then keep you updated on what happens in your case, and the person who filed the complaint against you will know to send any additional papers that he or she may file.

You must keep the Court and the other side up-to-date on what your current address is and what your telephone number is, if you have a phone number. This is so the Court and the