

HOW DID THE CASE GET HERE?

FROM THE FIRST SUMMONS IN JULY 2023 TO THE SUBSTANTIVE HEARING IN OCTOBER 2026

The proceedings now before the District Court in Leeuwarden began more than three years ago. Since July 2023, the case has developed through extensive written pleadings, a separate jurisdiction challenge concerning Bill Gates, further evidence and expert material, and a series of court decisions that have progressively shaped the proceedings.

The timeline below explains that journey in straightforward terms - what happened, why it mattered, and how the case arrived at the substantive hearing scheduled for 22 October 2026.

For readers who want to examine the proceedings in detail, each stage points to the corresponding numbered documents in The Case File.

01

14 JULY 2023

THE CASE BEGINS

Seven claimants commence civil proceedings against 17 defendants before the District Court in Leeuwarden.

The claimants ask the court to find that the defendants, individually and collectively, acted unlawfully towards them by deliberately and unlawfully misleading them and thereby inducing them to receive COVID-19 injections which, according to the claimants' case, the defendants knew or ought to have known were not safe and effective. Ninety-one items of evidence accompany the original summons.

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

This is the document that starts the lawsuit. It identifies the parties, sets out the claimants' case and puts the allegations that the defendants will be required to answer before the court.

CASE FILE -> DOCUMENT 1

02

NOVEMBER 2023 - FEBRUARY 2024

THE DEFENDANTS BEGIN TO ANSWER

In November 2023, the court is informed of the death of the sixth claimant and is asked to stay the proceedings temporarily.

From January 2024, the defendants begin filing their formal written defences. The State of the Netherlands and eleven other defendants respond first, followed by further statements of defence including those of Van Cann and Jansen, Van der Voort-Kant and Albert Bourla.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The proceedings are no longer simply a claim containing allegations. The opposing positions are now being formally placed before the court.

CASE FILE -> DOCUMENTS 2-5 & 10

03

BILL GATES - INTERLOCUTORY PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY - OCTOBER 2024

A CASE WITHIN THE CASE: THE JURISDICTION DISPUTE

On 21 February 2024, Bill Gates files an incidental submission arguing that the Dutch court lacks jurisdiction over the claim against him. Written responses follow on 20 March.

On 1 May, the court decides that the jurisdiction question will be dealt with at an oral hearing. That hearing takes place on 18 September.

On 16 October 2024, the court delivers its final judgment in the interlocutory proceedings. Gates's jurisdiction challenge is rejected. The court considers itself to have jurisdiction and the case against him continues.

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

This does not determine the substantive allegations against Gates. It determines whether the Dutch court has jurisdiction to hear the claim against him. Once the challenge is rejected, that separate procedural branch ends and the proceedings continue.

CASE FILE -> DOCUMENTS 6-9

04

LATE 2024 - JUNE 2025

THE MAIN CASE DEVELOPS

Following the jurisdiction judgment, Gates files his substantive statement of defence on 27 November 2024.

In December, the plaintiffs seek a preliminary hearing and propose discussion of the progress of the proceedings, further evidence, expert witnesses, media access and the future conduct of the case. The court instead directs that the written reply and counter-reply stages should proceed first.

In February 2025, the court rules on the procedural position following the death of claimant No. 6. On 11 June, the plaintiffs file their reply, amend their claim and submit 54 additional exhibits.

WHY THIS MATTERS

By this stage, the litigation has moved considerably beyond the original July 2023 summons. Both the material before the court and the parties' competing positions have developed.

CASE FILE -> DOCUMENTS 11-17

05

JULY - OCTOBER 2025

THE WRITTEN BATTLE REACHES A TURNING POINT

Between July and September 2025, defendants including Van Cann and Jansen, Gates, Bourla and Kant file rejoinders disputing the plaintiffs' case.

On 1 October 2025, the court records that the parties have submitted their pleadings and rejoinders, identifies procedural issues requiring determination, and states that an oral hearing will be scheduled at a later stage.

THE TURNING POINT

After more than two years dominated by written submissions, the proceedings are moving towards the stage at which the parties will appear before the court.

CASE FILE -> DOCUMENTS 18-22

06

NOVEMBER 2025 - JANUARY 2026

THE ROAD TO THE HEARING

On 26 November 2025, the court orders that an oral hearing be held on a date still to be determined and directs that the parties attend.

On 7 December, the claimants' solicitor submits further material including video messages and written reports from experts. Further submissions concerning the experts and arrangements for the hearing follow in January.

On 27 January 2026, the court fixes the hearing for 22 October 2026 at 12.30 pm.

THE DATE IS SET

The litigation now has a fixed destination: an oral hearing in Leeuwarden on 22 October 2026.

CASE FILE -> DOCUMENTS 23-31

07

MARCH - AUGUST 2026

THE COURT SETS THE PARAMETERS

With the hearing date established, attention turns to how it will operate. On 11 March, the court rules on matters including speaking time and deadlines for further documents.

Further decisions concern the proposed experts and public access. In May, the court states that the experts put forward by the claimants have no separate procedural status, while making provision for consultation with them in another room. The court also permits a livestream.

On 25 August 2026, the court rejects a request by Van Cann, Jansen and Van der Voort-Kant that they should be neither visible nor audible on the livestream.

WHY THIS MATTERS

These decisions establish important parts of the practical and procedural framework within which the October hearing will take place.

CASE FILE -> DOCUMENTS 32-36

22 OCTOBER 2026

THE SUBSTANTIVE HEARING

THIS IS WHERE THE CASE STANDS NOW.

08

More than three years after the summons was issued, and following successive rounds of written pleadings, the separate Gates jurisdiction proceedings, further evidence, expert material and multiple procedural decisions, the parties are due before the District Court in Leeuwarden on 22 October 2026.

This is the point towards which the procedural history above has been moving.

YOU NOW KNOW HOW THE CASE GOT HERE.

The chronology above gives you the bigger picture.
The Case File takes you inside it.

Explore the numbered court documents and the Case File Guide to follow the proceedings in detail.