

# DEFENDANT INFORMATION

1. When you are sued and served with a citation from the Justice Court, you must file a written answer to the court on or before the 15th calendar day. If the 15th day falls on a weekend or holiday, you must file by the next business day. You must provide a copy of your written answer to the Plaintiff. There is no charge for filing your answer unless you choose a Trial by Jury.
2. You may choose to use the form provided, but are not required to. This form is included for your convenience. You may submit your Answer to the Court on any document of your choice.
3. If you do not desire to contest the suit, and you agree that the plaintiff recover the full amount he is seeking, you may check the Admit box on the form provided and a confession of Judgment will be issued by the Court and you will not be required to attend a trial.
4. If you contest the suit (or any part of the suit) you may choose a Trial by Judge or a Trial by Jury. If you choose a Trial by Jury, you are required to pay a Jury fee of \$22.00 when you file your answer. If you chose a jury trial and do not show up on your court date you will be charged fees for empanelling the jury as well as all fees paid to jurors.
5. You may represent yourself or hire an attorney to represent you.
6. You should prepare a proper defense if you go to trial even though the burden is on the Plaintiff to prove his allegation against you.
7. If witnesses are required and will not appear voluntarily, you may subpoena them to Court by asking for the subpoena and paying the required fee. The subpoena must be requested ten (10) days prior to the trial.
8. After the Plaintiff presents his case at the trial as to his right to recover, you are then allowed to present your defense as to why he should not recover.
9. When the Plaintiff and you have both rested your case, the Court will enter a judgment.
10. If a judgment is rendered against you, you may appeal the ruling of the Court to the County Court at Law within twenty one (21) days from the day the judgment is signed.
11. Should the Court rule the Plaintiff recover nothing from you, the Plaintiff has the right to appeal.
12. Should the Plaintiff recover from you and you do not appeal it, the Plaintiff may take further legal action against you to collect the amount of judgment plus all court costs.

# DEFENDANT'S ANSWER

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

_____	§	IN THE JUSTICE COURT
Plaintiff(s)	§	
	§	
Vs.	§	PRECINCT _____
	§	
_____	§	ANGELINA COUNTY, TEXAS
Defendant(s)		

I **ADMIT** the claims of this petition and hereby Confess Judgment against me and in favor of the Plaintiff(s) without a trial.

Or

- I **DENY** the allegations, and hereby request;
- A Trial by Judge
  - A Trial by Jury. This is my Demand for Jury and I am including the \$22.00 Jury Fee.  
(failure to include fee for Jury will result in a trial by Judge)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant's Signature

I can be notified of further proceedings in this case at:

Address:

City, State, Zip

Telephone No.

Secondary No.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## NOTICE:

You are required to provide the Plaintiff with a copy of the written answer.

Visit [www.AngelinaCounty.net](http://www.AngelinaCounty.net) for links to the Rules of Civil Procedure and other resources.

The New Rules for Civil Procedure and the Texas Property Code are kept for your viewing during normal business hours. Please check with the clerk.

## Helpful Resources

Angelina County – [www.angelinacounty.net](http://www.angelinacounty.net)

The State Law Library – <https://www.sll.texas.gov>

Department of Defense Official Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) Website - [www.dmdc.osd.mil](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil)

Texas Constitution and Statutes: [www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us](http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us)

This site provides complete access to all Texas Codes

Texas Secretary of State: <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/publicinfo.shtml>

Texas Supreme Court: [www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us](http://www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us)

This site provides access to the complete Rules of Civil Procedure and Rules of Evidence

Texas Legislature Online: [www.legis.state.tx.us](http://www.legis.state.tx.us)

This site allows the user to track past and pending House and Senate Bills

Kurth Memorial Library: [www.kurthmemorallibrary.com](http://www.kurthmemorallibrary.com)

Address: 706 S. Raquet St. .. Lufkin, TX 75904 -- Phone: 936-630-0560

Kurth Memorial Library is open 10am to 7pm on Mondays, 9am to 6pm Tuesday through Thursday, 9am to 5:30 on Friday, and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays.

Call The State Bar of Texas Toll-Free at 1-877-9TEXBAR if you need help locating an attorney, you may be eligible for free or low-cost legal assistance.

Texas Law Help. Org - What is TexasLawHelp.org?

TexasLawHelp.org is a website where low-income Texans can find information about their civil legal issues and find out about free legal assistance in their area. [www.TexasLawHelp.org](http://www.TexasLawHelp.org)

Legal Services Corporation - <http://www.lsc.gov>

Lone Star Legal Aid Library – 800-354-1889

414 East Pillar St. – Nacogdoches, TX 75961-5511