

DEFENDANT INFORMATION

1. When you are sued and served with a citation from the Justice Court, you must file a written answer to this 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. You must also provide the Plaintiff with a true copy of your answer.
3. 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 empaneling the jury as well as all fees paid to jurors.
4. You may represent yourself or hire an attorney to represent you.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. When the Plaintiff and you have both rested your case, the Court will enter a judgment.
9. 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 for small/debt claim cases or five (5) days for eviction cases from the day the judgment is signed.
10. Should the Court rule the Plaintiff recover nothing from you, the Plaintiff has the right to appeal.
11. 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.
12. If you do not dispute the suit, please contact the Plaintiff.

For additional information, please visit our website at <https://www.angelinacounty.net/jp1/> for Self Help Resources.

DEFENDANT'S ANSWER

Cause No. _____

§ IN THE JUSTICE COURT

Plaintiff(s)

Vs.

§

§ PRECINCT _____

§

Defendant(s)

§ ANGELINA COUNTY, TEXAS

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)

I understand that if I request a Jury Trial and fail to appear for Jury Trial, I may be charged back the cost of impaneling the Jury pursuant to TCPRC § 30.008

I ☐ am ☐ am NOT an active member of the military.

Defendant's Signature

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

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone No. _____

Secondary No. _____

I ☐ **DO** or ☐ **DO NOT** consent to email service of all motions, pleadings, or other documents filed in this case to (email address): _____

Provide your mobile number if you wish to receive text message reminders of hearing dates from the Court. _____

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

You must provide the opposing party with a copy of your answer. Please tell the Court how you are doing this.

I, _____, certify that on _____ day of

_____, 20_____, served a true and correct copy of Defendant's Answer to

_____, by: ☐ Personal Delivery ☐ Mail ☐ Fax ☐ Other

Signature

Date

NOTICE OF SELF-HELP RESOURCES

Pursuant to Government Code § 51.808

Forms are located on our website at <https://www.angelinacounty.net/jp1/>
Click on **Civil Court** or **Traffic Court** or **Landlord – Tenant Court**.

For **Case Status** and other case information, visit the Judicial Records Search at
<http://public.angelinacounty.net/default.aspx> Search by your name or case/cause number.

- ❖ 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 or by website www.texasbar.com
- ❖ **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
- ❖ **Texas Justice Court Training Center** Self Represented Litigants:
<https://www.tjctc.org/SRL.html>
- ❖ **Texas Court Help** is a website funded in part by a grant from the Legal Services Corporation. It is the result of a partnership between Lone Star Legal Aide, the Texas Office of Court Administration, Texas Legal Services Center, and the Texas Access to Justice Commission. www.TexasCourtHelp.gov
- ❖ **Lone Star Legal Aid** – 800-354-1889 - 414 East Pillar St. – Nacogdoches, TX 75961-5511
- ❖ **Kurth Memorial Library:** www.kurthmemoriallibrary.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.
- ❖ **Department of Defense** Official Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) Website -
<https://scra.dmdc.osd.mil/scra/#/home>

OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES

- The Office of Court Administration – www.TXCourts.gov
- Texas Constitution and Statutes: www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us - This site provides complete access to all Texas Codes
- Texas Secretary of State: www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/publicinfo.shtml
- Texas Legislature Online: www.legis.state.tx.us - This site allows the user to track past and pending House and Senate Bills
- Legal Services Corporation - www.lsc.gov
- The State Law Library – www.sll.texas.gov