

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. You must also provide the Plaintiff with a true copy of your answer.
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 empaneling 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.

NOTICE OF SELF-HELP RESOURCES

The Texas Rules for Civil Procedure and the Texas Property Code are kept for your viewing during normal business hours and are available on our website at www.AngelinaCounty.net

Angelina County – www.angelinacounty.net

Department of Defense Official Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) Website - www.dmdc.osd.mil

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

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

Legal Services Corporation - www.lsc.gov

The State Law Library – www.sll.texas.gov

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

The Office of Court Administration – www.TXCourts.org

This website is 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.TexasCourHelp.org

Lone Star Legal Aid Library – 800-354-1889
414 East Pillar St. – Nacogdoches, TX 75961-5511

Kurth Memorial Library: 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.