

DEFENDANT'S ORIGINAL ANSWER

CAUSE NUMBER: _____

PLAINTIFF § IN THE JUSTICE COURT

VS § PRECINCT 1

DEFENDANT § WOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

WARNING: You do not have to hire a lawyer. However, we recommend that you talk to a lawyer before filling out this form. You may accidentally give up important legal rights if you file this form with the Court without first talking to a lawyer. For help finding a lawyer, call your local lawyer referral service. If you do not have enough money to hire a lawyer to take your whole case, you can hire a layer just to give you advice and help you fill-out this form. This is called Limited Scope Representation. You may also be able to talk to a lawyer for free at a legal advice clinic. For help finding a free legal advice clinic, go to www.TexasLawHelp.org.

INSTRUCTIONS: If you decide to use this *Defendant's Original Answer* form:

- Fill it out completely and sign it.
- File (*turn in*) your completed answer form at the Courthouse where the *Petition* was filed.
- It does not cost anything to file an answer.
- If you have been served, you have a limited time to file an answer. Counting from the day you were served, you have 14 days to file an answer. If the 14th day is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the answer is due on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. If the 14th day falls on a day during which the court is closed before 5:00 p.m., the answer is due on the court's next business day. If you do not file an answer by the deadline, the Plaintiff can ask the court to enter a default judgment against you.
- Keep a copy of your answer for your records
- Send a copy to the Plaintiff's lawyer or to the Plaintiff if s/he is not represented by a lawyer.

Defendant's Information

My name is _____, I am the Defendant in this Case.
(PRINT your full name.)

The last three numbers of my driver's license number is ___ ___ ___ My driver's license was issued in (state) _____.
Or I do not have a driver's license number.

The last three numbers of my social security number is ___ ___ _____.
Or I do not have a social security number.

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW, _____, Defendant in the above styled and numbered cause, and makes and files this, it's Original Answer, and respectfully shows:

My address is: _____
Street Address *City* *State* *Zip Code* *Country*

I declare **under penalty of perjury** that: 1) I am the Defendant in this case, 2) I have read this *Defendant's Answer*, and 3) the statements in this *Defendant's Answer* are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct. I understand that it is a crime to lie on this form.

Formally signed **under penalty of perjury** in _____ County, _____ State.
County *State*
on this date: ____/____/____.
Month *Day* *Year*



Defendant's Signature

Attorney Information (if any)

Attorney's Name

Attorney's Address

Attorney's Phone

Fax

Email

Certificate of Service

I certify that a copy of this document was delivered to the Plaintiff's lawyer or the Plaintiff (if the Plaintiff does not have a lawyer) on the same day this document was filed with (turned in to) the Court as follows: **(Check one)**

- through the electronic file manager if this document is being filed electronically
- by certified mail, return receipt requested
- by fax, to fax # _____
- by personal delivery
- by email to this email address: (only allowed if Plaintiff provided an email address in their petition and agreed to receive service by email) _____



Defendant's Signature

Date