**CAUSE NO. _____**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| _____ | § | IN THE JUSTICE COURT |
| PLAINTIFF | § | |
| | § | |
| v. | § | PRECINCT NO. ONE |
| | § | |
| _____ | § | |
| DEFENDANT | § | ORANGE COUNTY, TEXAS |

## DEFENDANT'S ANSWER – (SMALL CLAIMS OR DEBT CLAIM CASE)

**I. GENERAL DENIAL, ADDITIONAL PLEAS, AND OTHER INFORMATION** (*Under Texas law, the Defendant to a lawsuit is only required to answer with a general denial. See Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 502.5 for all the answer requirements.)*

My name is _____.
I **generally deny** the claims that Plaintiff has made in their Petition and demand that all claims be proven. (*The Plaintiff is the person suing you.*)

**I understand that the above general denial is all that is required of a Defendant under Texas law, but I wish to provide additional information:**
I dispute the claims in the petition for the following reasons (*list*):
_____
_____
_____
_____
I claim the following defenses (*list*):
_____
_____
_____
_____
Any additional information:
_____
_____

**II. JURY REQUEST**

- ☐ I request a jury trial. (*The fee is $22 and must be paid at least 14 days before trial unless you file a Statement of Inability to Afford Payment of Court Costs in compliance with Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 502.3.*)
- ☐ I do not request a jury at this time.

**III. SERVICE BY EMAIL** (*Normally, documents in this case are sent by mail. If it is easier for you, you can choose to get some of the documents sent by email. If you choose to get documents by email, you must have an email account where you can receive and look at large documents, and it is important that you check this email account every day.* ***Even if you receive some documents by email, you will still receive some documents about the case by mail or personal service, so you must not ignore any documents from the court or other parties received by mail or personal service.***)

☐ Yes, I would like to receive documents related to this case by email at this email address: _____.

☐ No, I do not want to receive any documents by email.

**IV. REMOTE PARTICIPATION**

Hearing by Phone Call: (*When a hearing happens by phone call, you will be able to talk to and hear the judge, the Plaintiff, or any witnesses, but you will not be able to see them. Copies of any evidence to be used must be exchanged by the parties and sent to the judge prior to the hearing.)*

☐ Yes, I am able to have any hearings in this case, except a jury trial, by phone call with the judge and the Plaintiff and understand that I must have a phone to use on the date and time of the hearing.
☐ No, I am not able to have hearings by phone call.

Hearing by Video Conference: (*When a hearing happens by video conference, you can hear, see, and talk to the judge, the Plaintiff, and any witnesses. You will be able to see any evidence presented during the hearing. You will need to have a computer, a smartphone, or tablet that has a camera feature. You will also need access to the internet to be able to have a video conference.)*

☐ Yes, I am able to have any hearings in this case, except a jury trial, by video conference. I understand that I am responsible for having the equipment and internet access needed to participate in a video conference on the date and time of the hearing.

☐ No, I am not able to have hearings by video conference.

*NOTE: Your responses in this section do not guarantee that hearings will be held remotely, but rather they help the court know how you are able to participate.*

**V. RELIEF REQUESTED**

Defendant reserves the right to file an Amended Defendant's Answer with the court to plead other defenses after further investigation and discovery.

Defendant requests that the court enter judgment for Defendant, award Defendant's costs, and for such other and further relief to which Defendant may prove to be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

| | |
|---|---|
| Signature of Defendant | Signature of Attorney, if any |
| Printed Name: _____ | Printed Name: _____ |
| Address: _____ | Address: _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| Email: _____ | Email: _____ |
| Telephone: _____ | Telephone: _____ |
| Fax: _____ | Fax: _____ |
| _____ | State Bar No.: _____ |

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

*(This answer and any other pleadings or motions must be served on the other parties in the case by following Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 501.4)*

I certify that a copy of this answer was sent to the Plaintiff on _____, 20____, in compliance with Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 501.4 by:

- ☐ Personal delivery to: _____
- ☐ Mail or courier to this address: _____
- ☐ Fax to this number: _____
- ☐ Email (*only allowed if Plaintiff provided an email address in their petition and agreed to receive service by email*) to this email address:
  _____
- ☐ Another method approved by the court:
  _____

_____
Defendant's Signature