

CAUSE NO. _____

_____	§	IN THE JUSTICE COURT
PLAINTIFF	§	
	§	
v.	§	PRECINCT _____
	§	
_____	§	
DEFENDANT	§	LAVACA COUNTY, TEXAS

DEFENDANT'S ANSWER - EVICTION

- I. GENERAL DENIAL, ADDITIONAL PLEAS, AND OTHER INFORMATION** (*Under Texas law, the Defendant to an eviction lawsuit is not required but may file a written answer. See Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 510.6.*)

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 no answer is required of a Defendant-Tenant in an eviction lawsuit under Texas law, but I wish to provide additional information:

I dispute the claims in the petition for the following reasons:

- ☐ **Texas Notice to Vacate:** Plaintiff-Landlord did not give proper notice to vacate as required by Property Code § 24.005;
- ☐ **Other:**

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 3 days before trial unless you file a Statement of Inability to Afford Payment of Court Costs in compliance with Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 510.7.)*
- ☐ 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

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

Signature of Attorney, if any

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

State Bar No.: _____

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

I hereby certify that a copy of this answer was served on Plaintiff on _____,
20____, pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 501.4 by:

- ☐ Personal delivery
- ☐ Mail
- ☐ Fax
- ☐ Email (if both parties have agreed in writing and provided an email address)
- ☐ Another method approved by the court: _____

Signature