



ATTENTION

DEFENDANT(S) INSTRUCTION

DO NOT IGNORE THESE PAPERS. If you do ignore these papers, the court may enter a default judgment against you. This means that the other party can legally garnish your wages or take your property.

1. **FIRST DECIDE IF YOU WISH TO CONTEST THE CLAIM.**

You should answer on the form provided for your answer, even if you feel you are the wrong defendant. Your answer should contain every "defense" you have.

Please file your answer in writing to the court within TEN (10) days after you have received the citation. If you do not do so, a default judgment may be entered against you.

When filing suit and you are suing one person, please bring the original plus 2 copies. If you are suing 2 people, please bring an original and 3 copies.

2. **DECIDE IF YOU WISH TO HIRE AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU.** You are allowed to represent yourself.

3. **POSSIBLE "DEFENSES" INCLUDE:**

- a. No jurisdiction or improper "venue", which means that you do not live in the area over which the above identified court has legal jurisdiction;
- b. Contributory negligence (negligence on the part of the plaintiff);
- c. Discharge in bankruptcy;
- d. Error or mistake;
- e. Previous compromises or payment of an obligation;
- f. Excessive damage claimed.

4. If you believe you have a claim of your own against the party suing you, you may file a Reconventional Demand. The plaintiff must be served with this "Reconventional Demand" before the trial.

5. You will have the opportunity at trial to present your witnesses and evidence, and the opportunity to pose questions to your opponent(s). You may be asked to answer your opponent's questions. The procedure will be more relaxed and informal than an ordinary trial, with the judge asking questions himself in an effort to understand the case and ascertain the truth.

6. After all of the testimony is taken, the judge will announce the decision regarding which party has won the case and the amount of any judgment, if a sum of money is awarded.

7. There are times when the judge will not render a decision immediately after the trial but will take the matter "under advisement" in order to conduct research. You will be notified of such a decision by mail.

8. If you and/or your attorney do not agree with the decision made by the judge, you will have fifteen (15) days from the signing of the judgment, or from receipt of judgment, if the case has been taken under advisement, to appeal your case.

9. If you are filing this by mail, then you need to include a self-addressed stamped envelope, if you want a conformed copy back.

JUDGE CHARLES V. CUSIMANO, II



5TH JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT
1221 ELMWOOD PARK BOULEVARD
SUITE 602
JEFFERSON, LOUISIANA 70123
(504) 736-8714
MON. TO FRI. ~ 9:00 AM TO 3:00PM

[Empty rectangular box for plaintiff name]

VERSUS

[Empty rectangular box for defendant name]

: **CASE NO:**
:
: **STATE OF LOUISIANA**
:
: **JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT**
:
: **DISTRICT 5**
:
: **PARISH OF JEFFERSON**

DEFENDANT'S ANSWER

THIS FORM MAY BE USED TO NOTIFY THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE WHETHER OR NOT YOU INTEND TO CONTEST THE PLAINTIFF'S CLAIM. CHECK THE STATEMENT BELOW THAT APPLIES AND /OR PROVIDE NARRATIVE ANSWER IN THE SPACE PROVIDED BELOW:

- _____ 1. I do not owe the Plaintiff any part of what he claims; or
- _____ 2. I owe the Plaintiff only part of what he claims; or
- _____ 3. I owe the Plaintiff what he claims, and waive any further appearance and/or delays and consent to judgment against me in the amount sought.

DATE: _____ **SIGNATURE:** _____
PHONE NO: _____ **ADDRESS:** _____

NOTICE TO ALL PARTIES: During the pendency of this lawsuit, the Justice of the Peace will contact you at the above address and phone number you have provided. If either address or phone number should change, you must notify the Justice of the Peace immediately.

PLEASE RETURN ANSWER TO:
1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard
Suite 602
Jefferson, Louisiana 70123