

CAUSE NO. _____

_____	§	IN THE JUSTICE COURT
PLAINTIFF	§	
	§	
v.	§	PRECINCT 5, PLACE 1
	§	
_____	§	
DEFENDANT	§	DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

DEFENDANT'S ANSWER - DEBT CLAIM CASE

I. **General Denial:** My name is _____. I generally deny each and every allegation that Plaintiff has made and demand that all allegations be proven. (*The Plaintiff is the person/creditor suing you.*)

II. **Additional Pleas and Affirmative Defenses:** (*Check any box that applies*):
I understand that I do not need to provide any information other than my name in the above General Denial section, but would still like to provide the following additional information to the court:

I do not owe this debt because:

A. Affirmative Defenses:

Bankruptcy

☐ This debt was discharged in bankruptcy or is part of a current bankruptcy case. My bankruptcy case number is: _____.

Debt Amount

☐ I do not owe any money at all.
☐ I paid off \$_____ more on the debt than the Plaintiff says.
☐ I dispute any amount owed over \$_____.

Debt is Too Old

☐ The statute of limitations has expired on Plaintiff's claims. (*The statute of limitations generally prevents debts from being collected if they are more than four years past due.*)
☐ The Plaintiff waited too long to bring this claim against me. (*Also called laches.*)

For Secured Loans Where Your Property Was Taken and Sold to Pay the Loan

- ☐ After taking my property, the creditor or its representative did not give me proper notice of the date, time, and place of sale of my property.
- ☐ After taking my property, the creditor or its representative did not sell the property in a commercially reasonable manner.

Other Affirmative Defenses

- ☐ This debt has already been resolved in another court or through arbitration or has otherwise been determined not to be collectible.
- ☐ The creditor lied to me, threatened me, or physically forced me to enter the contract.
- ☐ The original creditor or Plaintiff acted unfairly when creating or collecting this debt.

B. Other Defenses and Special Pleas

- ☐ The account is not my account. I am not the person who took out this debt or made the charges to the account.
- ☐ I am a victim of identity theft and I did not create this debt.
- ☐ I do not have a debt or contract with Plaintiff.
- ☐ Plaintiff is not the original owner of the debt and may not be able to prove that the debt was transferred or assigned to them, the date of the transfer or assignment, the names of any prior holders of the debt, and the name or a description of the original creditor.
- ☐ I purchased a credit protection product to cancel or make payments on this debt if I became disabled or lost my job. I did become disabled and/or lost my job and I notified the creditor or collector about my situation.

If you have other defenses or reasons you do not owe this debt, you may list them here:

III. 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.

IV. 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.: _____

- ☐ I hereby request a Certified Language and/or an American Sign Language interpreter may be requested for trial. Please be advised there is a 2-hour minimum fee. The fees must be paid 10 days before trial.

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 Rule 501.4.)

I hereby certify that a copy of this answer was served on Plaintiff on

_____, 20____, pursuant to Rule 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