

## Defendant's Answer Form

### What is an answer?

An answer is a defendant's formal written response to the plaintiff's initial court filing. Generally, an answer is filed in the court where the plaintiff filed the lawsuit. You must serve (give to) your answer on the plaintiff.

### When do I have to file an answer in my eviction case?

In an eviction case, you (the defendant) may file an answer:

1. Before your scheduled hearing. You must file your answer with the Justice Court where your hearing is scheduled and serve the answer on the plaintiff.
2. If you receive an eviction judgment at the hearing, and you appeal the judgment, you may file your answer, along with your other appeal documents, with the Justice Court, where your hearing was held. You must serve the answer on the plaintiff.
3. If you do not file your answer in the Justice Court before your initial hearing or with your other appeal documents, you must file an answer with the County Court within 8 days of the County Court receiving your appeal. You must serve the answer on the plaintiff.

### Where can I get an answer form and how do I complete the form?

Visit [Texas Law Help](#) to access a "[Defendant's Answer – Eviction](#)" toolkit that includes a Defendant's Answer form and walks you through how to complete the form and how to file your answer.

While reviewing the Defendant's Answer – Eviction toolkit, keep in mind that instructions may vary depending on when you are filing your answer (see section above).