

Civil Answers Research Guide

Overview

This research guide includes information and resources on civil answers. An answer is a defendant's first pleading that addresses the merits of the case, usually by denying the plaintiff's allegations. (*Black's Law Dictionary, 11th ed.*) This guide is intended for non-family law cases. The resources listed below are not exhaustive and may not include the most up-to-date information. It is for information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice or act as the substitute for legal counsel.

Related guides: Affirmative Defenses

Statutes and Codes

Texas Statutes Online www.statutes.capitol.texas.gov

Texas Rules of Civil Procedure
<https://www.txcourts.gov/rules-forms/rules-standards/>

- Rule 81 Defensive Matters
- Rule 82 Special Defenses
- Rule 83 Answer; Original and Supplemental; Indorsement
- Rule 84 Answer May Include Several Matters
- Rule 85 Original Answer; Contents
- Rule 92 General Denial
- Rule 93 Certain Pleas to be Verified
- Rule 94 Affirmative Defenses
- Rule 121 Answer is Appearance

Secondary Resources in Print

Texas Litigation Guide REF KFT 1730 .T4

- Vol. 5, Ch. 70 Answer

O'Connor's Texas Civil Forms REF KFT 1735 .A6503

- Ch. 3 Defendant's Pleadings, Section 3E – Defendant's Answer

Texas Pretrial Practice REF KFT 1737 .T4B7

- Vol. 1, Ch. 8 Personal Jurisdiction
 - §8:379 IN PRACTICE: File Answer Subject to Special Appearance
- Vol. 1, Ch. 14 Pleadings
 - Section III. Before Answering
 - Section IV. The Answer
 - Section V. Counterclaims and Cross-Claims
 - Form 14:30 Original Answer (General Denial) (*Forms on digital access only*)

O'Connor's Texas Rules Civil Trials REF KFT 1729 .A1903

- Ch. 3 Defendant's Response & Pleadings

Texas Civil Procedure Pretrial Litigation REF KFT 1737 .D67

- Ch. 6 Pleadings
 - §6.06 Defendant's Answer
 - §6.07[B] Supplemental Petitions and Answers

Texas Practice Series REF KFT 1280 .T4

- Vol. 16, Ch. 2 Drafting an Answer

Texas Jurisprudence KFT 1265 .T48

- Vol. 58, Pleading §149 *et seq.* Answer
- Vol. 58, Pleadings § 316 Evidence admissible under general denial

West's Texas Digest KFT 1257 .W48

- Vols. 41-41A, Section 76-161 Response or Responsive Pleadings in General

McDonald & Carlson Texas Civil Practice REF KFT 1730 .M3

- Vol. 2, Ch. 9 Pleading: Answer

CLE Materials

Advanced Trial Strategies KFT 1737 .A75 S83

- 2022 Ch. 1 Initiating Litigation & Reply: How the Experts Analyze a Claim or Reply to a New Case (*PDF only*)

Online Resources

Filing an Answer in a Non-Family Law Case (Texas Law Help)

<https://texaslawhelp.org/guide/i-want-to-file-an-answer-in-a-non-family-law-case>

Tarrant County Law Library Forms (*see "Defendant Resources"*) <https://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/law-library/forms.html>

Sample Form: Defendant's Answer – 5 pgs. (Texas Appleseed)

https://www.texasappleseed.org/sites/default/files/DefendantsAnswer_Final_0.pdf

I Was Served with a Lawsuit What Should I Do? (Texas Court Help) <https://texascourthelp.org/civil/i-was-served-with-a-lawsuit-what-should-i-do/#.Y-lu74TMKUk>

Answering the Call: Responding to a Texas Civil Subpoena (TX Young Lawyers Association) https://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Our_Legal_System1&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=23450

Civil Court Procedures (Texas Court Help)

<https://www.texascourthelp.gov/civil/>

How to Answer a Summons in Texas (Weston Legal)

<https://www.westonlegal.com/debt-lawsuits/how-to-answer-a-summons-in-texas>

Legal Assistance

Legal Lines – Ask Attorneys simple legal questions (free service)

- Tarrant County LegalLine Sign-up <https://www.tarrantbar.org/>
- Dallas County LegalLine Sign-up <https://www.dallasbar.org/index.cfm?pg=legalline>

Tarrant County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service: 817-336-4101 (\$20 for the first 30 minutes)