

SHAWNEE BASS
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
ERATH COUNTY, PRECINCT 1

EVICTIONS

(a) **EVICTION:** An eviction case is a lawsuit brought to recover possession of real property under Chapter 24 of the Texas Property Code, often by a landlord against a tenant. A claim for rent may be joined with an eviction case if the amount of rent due and unpaid is not more than \$10,000, including costs and attorney fees, if any. Eviction cases are governed by Rules 500-507 and 510 of Part V of the Rules of Civil Procedure. To the extent of any conflict between Rule 510 and the rest of Part V, Rule 510 applies.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

APPROPRIATE COURTROOM ATTIRE IS REQUIRED. All persons entering the courtroom should be dressed in clothing reasonably befitting the dignity and solemnity of the court proceedings. Cell phones and other electronics must be turned off when in the courtroom. Food and drink is not allowed in the courtroom.

Donald R. Jones Justice Center, 112 W. College St., Stephenville, TX 76401

(254) 965-1489 – civil clerk

(254) 965-1400 – fax

<http://co.erath.tx.us/jpcourtstephenville.html>

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JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 1



PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE FILING THE PETITION

FOR INFORMATION ON THE RULES OF PRACTICE IN JUSTICE COURTS, PLEASE CONSULT PART V OF THE TEXAS RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, WHICH IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AND AT EACH COURT.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FURNISHED TO YOU AS A COURTESY OF THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE OFFICE FOR FILING EVICTION SUITS. THE COURT CANNOT ADVISE YOU WHAT YOU SHOULD DO AND ARE BARRED BY LAW FROM GIVING YOU LEGAL ADVICE. THE COURT CAN ONLY ANSWER PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS.

Eviction suits must be filed in the Justice Precinct where the property is located. If you are unsure, please contact the Erath County Tax Office at 254-965-8630. This is a suit for you to regain possession of your property or to combine a suit for rent with this suit. Please print clearly.

- The plaintiff is the owner of the property; if you are acting as agent, the owner is the plaintiff (not you) and you should sign the petition as the agent for the landlord (plaintiff).
- You must name all persons that signed the lease as defendants. All others living at the property can be considered "all other occupants" (ex: "John Doe and all other occupants). If you name more than one person, you will be required to pay a service fee for each person named.
- State tenant's full address, including apartment number (if applicable) and city.
- In order to properly file this suit, you must have given the defendant(s) a written demand to vacate the premises prior to filing your suit. To be sure of the number of days and the valid methods of service required, please refer to Texas Property Code 24.005.
- In order to sue for attorney fees, you must have given the tenant a 10-day written notice which stated that if they did not vacate by the 11th day after the date of receipt of the notice, you would be entitled to attorney fees (if employment of counsel is necessary and verified).
- You must also complete the JUSTICE COURT CIVIL CASE INFORMATION SHEET and the MILITARY AFFIDAVIT.
- If you are suing for past due rent and/or attorney's fees the total amount of both added together cannot exceed \$10,000.

The cost for you to have your case filed and the citation served is \$121.00 if only one defendant. This is a "court cost" that can be included in the judgment if you win your case. If filing in person the day and time of hearing will be written on your receipt. If filing by mail, you will receive notice of hearing by mail, phone call, or e-mail if provided.

Evictions may be dismissed only in open court or by written motion. If the tenant vacates the property and you do not want to come for the hearing and obtain your written judgment, you must submit a written motion for dismissal so the case can be cleared from the court's docket.

CAUSE NO. _____

PLAINTIFF

v.

DEFENDANT

§ IN THE JUSTICE COURT
§
§
§ PRECINCT NO. 1
§
§
§ ERATH COUNTY, TEXAS

PETITION: EVICTION CASE

COMPLAINT: Plaintiff hereby sues the following Defendant(s) _____
_____ for eviction of Plaintiff's premises (including
storerooms and parking areas) located in the above precinct. The address of the property
is:

Street Address Unit No. (if any) City State Zip

GROUND FOR EVICTION: Plaintiff alleges the following grounds for eviction:

- Unpaid rent.** Defendant(s) failed to pay rent for the following time period(s):
_____. The amount of rent claimed as of the
date of filing is: \$_____. Plaintiff reserves the right to orally amend
the amount at trial to include rent due from the date of filing through the date
of trial.
- Other lease violations.** Defendant(s) breached the terms of the lease (other
than by failing to pay rent) as follows: _____
- Holdover.** Defendant(s) are unlawfully holding over by failing to vacate at the
end of the rental term or renewal of extension period, which was the ____ day
of _____, 20__.

NOTICE TO VACATE: Plaintiff has given Defendant(s) a written notice to vacate (according
to Chapter 24.005 of the Texas Property Code) and demand for possession. Such notice was
delivered on the ____ day of _____, 20__ by this method: _____

SUIT FOR RENT: Plaintiff does or does not include a suit for unpaid rent.

ATTORNEY'S FEES: Plaintiff will be or will not be seeking applicable attorney's fees.
The attorney's name, address, phone and fax numbers are: _____

IMMEDIATE POSSESSION BOND: If Plaintiff has filed a bond for immediate possession,
Plaintiff requests that: (1) the Court set the amount of the bond; (2) the Court approve the

bond; and (3) proper notices, as required by the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, are given to Defendant(s).

SERVICE OF CITATION: Service is requested on Defendant(s) by: personal service at home or work, or by delivery to a person over the age of 16 years at Defendant's usual place of residence. If required, Plaintiff requests alternative service as allowed by the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure. Other home or work addresses where Defendant(s) may be served are: _____

Plaintiff knows of no other home or work addresses of Defendant(s) in this county.

RELIEF: Plaintiff requests that Defendant(s) is served with the citation and that Plaintiff is awarded a judgment against Defendant(s) for: possession of the premises, including removal of Defendant(s) and Defendant's possessions from the premises, unpaid rent, if set forth above, attorney's fees, court costs, and interest on the above sums at the rate stated in the lease, or if not so stated, at the statutory rate for judgments.

I hereby request a jury trial. The fee is \$22 and must be paid at least 3 days before trial.

I hereby consent for the answer and any other motions or pleadings to be sent to my email address as follows: _____

Plaintiff's Printed Name

Signature of Plaintiff or Agent or Attorney

Defendant's Information (if known):

Date of birth: _____

Address of Plaintiff or Agent or Attorney

Last three digits of Driver License: _____

Last three digits of Soc. Sec. No.: _____

Phone No.: _____

City State Zip

Phone & Fax No. of Plaintiff
or Agent or Attorney

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this _____ day of _____, 20_____

CLERK OF THE JUSTICE COURT OR NOTARY

Instructions: The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act applies to a civil proceeding in the Justice Courts. Before entering a default judgment against an individual defendant, the plaintiff must file with the court an affidavit stating whether or not the defendant is in the military service, showing necessary facts to support the affidavit, or stating that the plaintiff is unable to determine whether or not the defendant is in military service, if that is the case. The requirement for an affidavit may be satisfied by a written, signed document declared to be true under penalty of perjury. If it appears that the defendant is in military service, the court may not enter a judgment until after the court appoints an attorney to represent the defendant. If the court is unable to determine if the defendant is in military service, the court may require plaintiff to file a bond in an amount approved by the court.

A person who makes or uses an affidavit under this Act knowing it to be false, may be fined or imprisoned or both. 50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq. To obtain certificates of service or non-service under the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act, you may access the public website: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/scra/scraHome.do>. This website will provide the current active military status of an individual.

Military Status Affidavit

Case No. _____	§	In the Justice Court of
	§	
Plaintiff : _____	§	Erath County, Texas
vs.	§	
	§	Precinct 1, Place 1
Defendant: _____	§	

BEFORE ME, on this day personally appeared, _____, who, under penalty of perjury, stated that the following facts are true:

I am the Plaintiff attorney of record for the Plaintiff in this proceeding.

- _____, Defendant, **is not** in military service.
- _____, Defendant, **is** in military service.

I know this because

-

I am unable to determine whether or not the Defendant is in military service because

_____.

Signature *Date*
Printed Name: _____
Address: _____

Telephone: _____
Fax: _____
E-Mail Address: _____

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF ERATH §

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME on _____

Clerk of the Court or Notary Public, State of Texas