

Cause Number: \_\_\_\_\_

(Print court information exactly as it appears on the Original Petition for Divorce)

**IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF**

**Petitioner:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Print first, middle and last name of the spouse filing for divorce.*

And

**Respondent:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Print first, middle and last name of other spouse.*

In the \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Court Number)*

- District Court
- County Court at Law

\_\_\_\_\_ County, Texas

## Respondent's Original Answer

**WARNING to Respondent:** Without the advice and help of a lawyer, you may be putting yourself, your property and your money at risk. For a referral to a lawyer or free Legal Aid office call the State Bar of Texas Lawyer Referral Information Service at 1-800-252-9690. If you are a victim of family violence, or if at any time you feel unsafe, you can get confidential help from the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 or legal help from the Texas Advocacy Project Family Violence Legal Line at 1-800-374-4673.

**WARNING to Out-of-State Respondent:** Filing an *Answer* with the Court enters your appearance in this case. Talk to an attorney before filing an *Answer*, if you **1) do not live in Texas** and 2) do not want a Texas Court to have the power to make orders that would impose a personal obligation on you. Such orders could include orders dividing your property and debts and (if requested by your spouse) ordering you to pay spousal maintenance, court costs and attorney's fees. If you file an *Answer* (or any other pleading) before filing a *Special Appearance*, you will give up your right to argue that Texas can't make such orders because you live out-of-state. Ask a Texas attorney to help you determine if Texas has personal jurisdiction over you.

**INSTRUCTIONS to Respondent:** If you decide to use this form:

- Do not sign it until **at least one day after** the *Original Petition for Divorce* has been filed (turned in to the court). Your spouse should have given you a copy of the *Original Petition for Divorce*. The official court stamp on your copy will tell you when it was filed.
- Fill out this form completely. You must include your address.
- File (turn in) the original signed form to the court where your spouse filed the *Original Petition for Divorce*. Keep a copy for your records and give a copy to your spouse.
- Get additional information about divorce at [www.TexasLawHelp.org](http://www.TexasLawHelp.org).

Print your answers.

My name is: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Middle Last*

I am the **Respondent** in this divorce case.

The last three numbers of my driver's license number are: \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ . My driver's license was issued in (State) \_\_\_\_\_ .

or  I do not have a driver's license number.

The last three numbers of my social security number are: \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ .

or  I do not have a social security number

### 1. General Denial

I enter a general denial. I want to be notified of all hearings in this case.

However, if my spouse and I reach an agreement and I sign a *Final Decree of Divorce*, I agree that the Judge can finalize this case without my getting notice of the hearing and without my coming to Court.

### 2. Contact Information

My mailing address is: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Mailing Address City State Zip*

My email address is: \_\_\_\_\_

My phone number is: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I must notify the Court and my spouse’s attorney or my spouse (if my spouse does not have an attorney) in writing if my mailing address or email address changes during these divorce proceedings.

I understand that, unless I notify the Court, my spouse’s attorney or my spouse (if my spouse does not have an attorney) in writing of changes to my mailing address and email address, all information about this case, including the date and time of hearings, will be sent to me at the mailing address or email address on this form.

### 3. Separate Property

I own the following separate property. I owned this property before I was married or I received this property as a gift or inheritance during my marriage or I received this property as recovery for personal injuries sustained during my marriage (not including any recovery for loss of earning capacity during my marriage). I ask the Court to confirm this property as my separate property in my Final Decree of Divorce.

1. House or land located at: \_\_\_\_\_  
*street address city state zip*

2. Cars, trucks, motorcycles, mobile homes or other vehicles

Year	Make	Model	Vehicle Identification No. [VIN]
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

3. Other property I owned before I was married or received as a gift or inheritance during my marriage (*describe*): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Money I received as recovery for personal injuries sustained during my marriage (not including any recovery for loss of earning capacity during my marriage) (*describe*): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

