

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.

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

Dorsaneo's 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 JUR KFT 1265 .T48

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

West's Texas Digest 2D 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*)

- <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)

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