

INFORMATION FOR FILING A SMALL CLAIM CASE

A small claims case is a lawsuit brought for the recovery of monetary damages, civil penalties, personal property, or other relief allowed by law. The actual amount in controversy (not the amount sued for) cannot exceed \$20,000.00, excluding statutory interest and court costs but including attorney fees, if any. **THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE A BROAD INTERPRETATION OF THE LAWS THAT APPLY TO THE COURT. ANY LEGAL QUESTIONS OR LEGAL INTERPRETATION SHOULD BE BASED UPON YOUR OWN RESEARCH OF THE MATTER, OR THE ADVICE OF YOUR ATTORNEY. SMALL CLAIMS ARE GOVERNED BY RULES 500-507 of PART V of the TEXAS RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE.**

VENUE: General Rule: Generally, a defendant in a small claims case or a debt claim case is entitled to be sued in one of the following venues:

1. The county and precinct where the defendant resides;
2. The county and precinct where the incident, or the majority of incidents, that gave rise to the claim occurred;
3. The county and precinct where the contract or agreement, if any, that gave rise to the claim was to be performed; or
4. The county and precinct where the property is located, in a suit to recover personal property.

WHO YOU MAY SUE:

1. INDIVIDUAL – list all known addresses on the form
2. SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP – contact the Assumed Names Dept. 830-997-6515 in the Gillespie County Clerk's office for more information
3. CORPORATION – serve it's registered agent; the name and address can be obtained by calling the office of the Secretary of State at 512-463-5701 or <http://ecpa.cpa.state.tx.us/coa/Index/html>

FILING SUIT: The responsibility for filling out your petition and civil case information sheet rests with you. The filing fee is \$51.00 and the service fee for certified mail is \$12.35, for constable service, \$75.00. A litigant is entitled to alternative methods of satisfying the court cost, subject to acceptance by the Court. If the defendant resides outside of Gillespie County, contact the Court for service fees for that county where they reside or work. We need name and address to send information to for service.

APPEAL: After the trial, either party may appeal the judgment by filing a Notice of Appeal with the Court, and an Appeal Surety Bond, within (21) twenty-one days from the date of judgment. If the appeal is filed by the Plaintiff, the appeal bond amount shall be \$500.00. If the appeal is filed by the Defendant, the appeal bond amount shall be two (2) times the judgment amount. Filing fees are required for filing in the County Court.

AFTER THE JUDGMENT: Should you receive a judgment, **this Court does not collect the judgment for you, nor can we force the defendant to pay the judgment. If you receive a judgment against the defendant, this Court can issue various instruments to assist you in collecting the judgment.**

- a. Abstract of Judgment: \$5.00; requested after (21) days after Judgment and filed with the County Clerk; and is good for a period of ten (10) years.
- b. Writ of Execution: \$200.00; plus a \$5 processing fee, requested (30) days after judgment.