

CAUSE NUMBER: _____

THE STATE OF TEXAS

§

IN THE JUSTICE COURT

§

v.

§

PRECINCT NO. _____

§

_____ (DEFENDANT)

§

_____ COUNTY, TEXAS

PLEA FORM

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO HIRE AN ATTORNEY AND HAVE THAT ATTORNEY PRESENT PRIOR TO ENTERING A PLEA. YOUR ATTORNEY MAY REPRESENT YOU IN SUBSEQUENT COURT APPEARANCES. UPON A PLEA OF NOT GUILTY YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY OR A TRIAL BEFORE THE COURT (BEFORE THE JUDGE). IF YOU WAIVE YOUR RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY, YOUR CASE WILL BE TRIED BEFORE THE COURT. UPON A PLEA OF GUILTY OR NOLO CONTENDERE, (NO CONTEST) AND PAYMENT OF THE FINE, THERE WILL BE A FINAL CONVICTION. THE COURT HAS A FINE SCHEDULE AND BAIL BOND SCHEDULE FOR EACH OFFENSE WHICH CAN NOT BE MODIFIED WITHOUT THE JUDGE'S APPROVAL.

CAUSE NO _____ PLEA ON CHARGE OF: _____

The judge or court clerk CAN NOT give you legal advice regarding your case.

NOT GUILTY: - A plea of *Not Guilty* states that you are *Not Guilty* of the charge filed. This is not the correct plea if you are wishing to discuss extenuating circumstances with the Judge. A plea of *Not Guilty* may require an appearance bond to be posted. Failing to appear on the trial date may result in forfeiture of your bond and additional charges being filed against you. If you are found not guilty at trial, the charge against you will be dismissed and the Court will refund any bond. If you are found guilty, your fine will be set by the Judge, (or jury if you requested a Jury trial), then the fine and court costs assessed must be paid as ordered.

NOLO CONTENDERE (NO CONTEST): A plea of *No Contest* indicates you are not contesting the charge filed, and **a finding of guilt will be entered** and your fine and costs will be set by the Court and must be paid as ordered.

GUILTY: A *Guilty* plea states that you are guilty of the charge as filed and a finding of guilt will be entered by the Court. The fine and costs on a plea of *Guilty* are the same as a plea of *No Contest* and must be paid as ordered.

PLEA: Indicate your plea by placing an **X** in the appropriate space.

_____ I hereby enter a plea of **NOLO CONTENDRE (NO CONTEST)**.

_____ I hereby enter a plea of **GUILTY**.

I understand that entering the plea indicated above may result in any or all of the following: 1) a criminal conviction; and 2) the assessment of a fine and court costs. I further understand that I will be obligated by law to satisfy the Court's judgment in this cause.

_____ I hereby enter a plea of **NOT GUILTY**; I choose to:

- Exercise my right to a jury trial.
- Waive my right to a jury trial. By waiving this right I understand that I am electing to have the Court hear the evidence in this case and determine whether I am guilty or not guilty of the charged offense.

I understand that I am required to appear on the date of trial. I acknowledge that my failure to appear as ordered by the Court may result in additional criminal charges and the issuance of a warrant for my arrest, the issuance of an order requiring me to pay the costs of impaneling a jury, or the Department of Public Safety denying the renewal of my Texas driver's license.

Signed: _____ Phone number _____ Date: _____