

CAUSE NO. _____

STATE OF TEXAS

IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW

V

OF

GRIMES COUNTY, TEXAS

**JUDGE'S EXPLANATION OF RIGHTS TO DEFENDANTS
WITHOUT ATTORNEY**

You have been charged with a criminal offense. As a defendant in a criminal case, you have three options:

1. You may hire an attorney;
2. If you do not have enough money to hire an attorney, you may request an attorney be appointed to represent you;
3. You may represent yourself.

If you want an attorney to represent you and have enough money to hire an attorney, the case will be reset to give you time to do so.

If you want an attorney and you believe you do not have the money to hire one, you will need to fill out a financial questionnaire so that the court can determine whether or not you can afford an attorney. If the Court determines you are too poor to afford an attorney, he will appoint an attorney to represent you. If, however, the Court determines you CAN afford an attorney, you will be given an opportunity to hire one or you may represent yourself.

You have the right to discuss your case with the prosecutor however, you may not speak to the prosecutor about your case unless you sign a written waiver of your right to be represented by an attorney.

Be aware that there are dangers to self-representation. Waiving your right to an attorney and representing yourself may result in a worse outcome for you and your case, including the loss of significant legal rights and opportunities relating to military service, possession of a firearm, housing and public benefits, child custody, immigration status for non-citizens, and employment.

If you choose to proceed without an attorney and discuss your case with the prosecutor but are unable to reach an agreement, you may change your mind at any time and may request counsel from the Court or request time to hire an attorney.

Judge Presiding

DEFENDANT'S CHOICE [mark initials next to only **ONE** choice]

_____ I want to reset this case to hire my own attorney.

_____ I have hired an attorney, whose name is: _____

_____ I want to apply for court-appointed counsel.

_____ I have a court-appointed attorney, whose name is: _____

_____ I want to waive my right to an attorney and represent myself.

Defendant: _____ Date: _____