

Civil Court Information

EMPLOYEES OF THE JUSTICE COURT MAY NOT GIVE ANY LEGAL ADVICE.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

The Government Code of the Texas Statutes prohibits any employee in this office from giving any legal advice:

- 81.101. DEFINITION: In this chapter the “practice of law” means the preparation of a pleading or other document incident to an action or special proceeding or the management of the action or proceeding on behalf of a client before a judge in court as well as a service rendered out of court, including the **giving of advice or the rendering of any service requiring the use of legal skill or knowledge, such as preparing a will, contract, or other instrument**, the legal effect of which under the facts and conclusions involved must be carefully determined.
- 81.102. STATE BAR MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED: (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), **a person may not practice law in this state unless the person is a member of the state bar.**

New civil case types in the Justice Courts – Effective 8/31/2013

- **Debt Claim:** A debt claim case is a lawsuit brought to recover a debt by an assignee of a claim, a debt collector or collection agency, a financial institution, or a person or entity primarily engaged in the business of lending money at interest. The claim can be for no more than \$20,000.00 excluding statutory interest and court costs but including attorney fees, if any.
- **Small Claims:** A small claims case is a lawsuit brought for the recovery of money damages, civil penalties, personal property, or other relief allowed by law. The claim can be for no more than \$20,000.00, excluding statutory interest and court costs but including attorney fees, if any.
- **Eviction:** An eviction case is a lawsuit brought to recover possession of real property, often by landlord against a tenant. A claim for rent may be joined with an eviction case if the amount of rent due and unpaid is not more than \$20,000.00, excluding statutory interest and court costs but including attorney fees, if any.
- **Repair and Remedy:** A repair and remedy case is a lawsuit filed by a residential tenant under Chapter 92, subchapter B of the Texas Property Code to enforce the landlord’s duty to repair or remedy a condition materially affecting the physical health or safety of an ordinary tenant. The relief sought can be for no more than \$10,000.00, excluding statutory interest and court costs but including attorney fees, if any.