

# TENANT EVICTION PACKET (SEVEN DAY NOTICE WITH CURE)

(THIS PACKET DOES NOT APPLY TO COMMERCIAL PROPERTY NOR MOBILE HOME PARKS.)

Compiled by Sherry Coker

## IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ

**IF NOT PROPERLY COMPLETED AND PARTIES NOT PROPERLY SERVED, YOUR CASE MAY BE DISMISSED OR YOU MAY NOT OBTAIN YOUR FINAL JUDGMENT.**

**THIS TYPE EVICTION MUST BE FILED BY OWNER OR ATTORNEY FOR OWNER ONLY.**

This Eviction Packet may be used for evictions of mobile home and lot or the lot only so long as the property is not in a mobile home park of ten or more lots/spaces.

The **Filing Fee** for an eviction is **\$185.00** plus an additional **\$10.00** per summons per person payable in check to **NADIA K. DAUGHTREY, Clerk of Courts.**

Whether a landlord has a written lease or rental agreement or not with a Tenant who is undesirable, but the situation could be remedied (i.e. unauthorized pets, guests, vehicles, or parking, and/or failing to keep premises clean and sanitary) the Landlord must give the Tenant a **SEVEN DAY NOTICE (WITH CURE)**. Make a copy of the Notice for yourself and serve the original to the Tenant/ Defendant or the person who lives with the Defendant or post it at the residence of the Defendant. Once you have given the person the Notice, he/she has **Seven (7) full days** to correct the problem or vacate the premises. If the tenant(s) has not moved or paid the rent after the seven (7) daytime limit, make a copy of the Seven Day Notice for the court file to be submitted with the remaining forms.

**IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE SEVEN DAY NOTICE HAVE THE LANDLORD'S NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER WITHIN IT. IF IT DOES NOT, YOUR CASE WILL BE DISMISSED BY THE COURT. IF YOU ONLY LIST A POST OFFICE BOX FOR LANDLORD'S ADDRESS YOU MUST ALLOW THE TENANT AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) DAYS FOR RESPONDING.**

**FILING THE EVICTION:** Using black ink, please complete the **NOTICE OF PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS and STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY**. Type or clearly print the addresses of the parties, then sign and date the forms and file them with the Clerk of Court.

Please complete the **COMPLAINT FOR TENANT EVICTION (SEVEN DAY NOTICE)** by typing or clearly printing the addresses of the parties and fill in the appropriate blank lines. Sign the complaint before a notary public or a deputy clerk and file it with the Clerk. **Make a copy of any written lease for the court file. If you have the Clerk's Office make copies for you, you will be charged \$1.00 per page.**

Enclosed is the **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING** you are to provide the Clerk for certifying that the Complaint and Summons were mailed to Defendant(s). Please complete the **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING** by typing or printing the addresses of the parties at the top and the Defendant's name and address in the body of the certificate. The Clerk is to immediately mail a copy of the summons and the copy of the complaint you provided by first class mail (you are to provide the stamped envelope). Service on the Defendant shall be effective on the date of posting or mailing, whichever occurs later. At least 5 days must elapse from the date of service before a judgment for final removal of the Defendant may be entered. If service is not completed as described above, a judgment for final removal of Defendant will not be entered by the Court.

A Deputy Clerk will prepare a **SUMMONS**. **IF YOU ARE EVICTING A HUSBAND AND WIFE, YOU WILL NEED A SUMMONS ISSUED FOR EACH OF THEM AND HAVE THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE SERVE EACH OF THEM.** You are to take the summons packet to the Sheriff's Office to have the Defendant(s) served. A service fee of \$40.00 per person is required by the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office, payable directly to them. You will receive a copy of the Summons for your records from the Clerk's office at no charge.

If a written response is filed with the Clerk's office by the Defendant(s), a court date may be scheduled with the Court as soon as possible. Notification of the hearing date will be mailed to both parties. The Court will make the determination if the tenant should be made to move at the hearing.

If the tenant(s) **fails** to file a written response, complete the forms in the **Default Package** and follow the directions in order to regain possession of the property.

If a Final Judgment for Possession is entered by the Court, the Clerk's office will prepare a **WRIT OF POSSESSION**. You will take the Writ of Possession, together with completed **INFORMATION ON AND DESCRIPTION OF DEFENDANTS TO GO WITH WRIT OF POSSESSION**, to the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office will require a service fee of \$90.00 for service. At this time, the tenant must leave the premises giving you back your property.

**\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\***

**ALL PAPERWORK PROVIDED BY THIS OFFICE IS USED FOR 'PRO SE' LITIGANTS ONLY. 'PRO SE' MEANS THAT YOU ARE ACTING AS YOUR OWN ATTORNEY. ACTING AS YOUR OWN ATTORNEY MAKES YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING THAT INVOLVES YOUR CASE FILE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A COURT DATE OR NOTICE FROM THIS OFFICE OR THE JUDGE, IT IS UP TO YOU TO CONTACT THE JUDGE FOR A HEARING DATE.**

**THIS PACKET PREPARED BY:**

**HONORABLE GUY A. FLOWERS  
COUNTY COURT JUDGE  
DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA  
115 EAST OAK STREET  
ARCADIA, FLORIDA 34266**

**HONORABLE NADIA K. DAUGHTREY  
CLERK OF COURTS  
DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA  
115 EAST OAK STREET  
ARCADIA, FLORIDA 34266**

IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Plaintiff(s),

vs.

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CASE NO. -----

Defendant(s).

**EVICTION SUMMONS/RESIDENTIAL**

TO: (Defendant(s) name and address)

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**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

You are being sued by (insert landlord's name)

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to require you to move out of the property located at for the reasons given in the attached complaint.

You are entitled to a trial to decide whether you can be required to move, but you **MUST** do ALL of the things listed below. You must do them within 5 days (not including Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays) after the date these papers were given to you or to a person who lives with you or were posted at your home.

**THE THINGS YOU MUST DO TO CHALLENGE THE EVICTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Write down the reason(s) why you think you should not be forced to move. (You may use Florida Supreme Court Form 1.947(b), Answer—Residential Eviction, to do this.) The written reason(s) must be given to the clerk of the court at the DeSoto County Courthouse, 115 East Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266.
2. Mail or take a copy of your written reason(s) to: (insert landlord's name and address)-----  
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3. Pay the Clerk of Court the rent that is due. You MUST pay the Clerk of the Court the rent each time it becomes due until the lawsuit is over. Whether you win or lose the lawsuit, the judge may release this rent to the landlord. [By statute, public housing tenants or tenants receiving rent subsidies must be required to pay only that portion of the full rent for which the tenant is responsible under the federal, state, or local program in which they are participating.] **NO CHECKS ACCEPTED.**

4. If you and the landlord do not agree on the amount of rent owed, you must file a written request (motion) that asks the judge to decide how much money you must pay to the Clerk of the Court. The written request must be filed with your answer to the eviction complaint. A copy of your motion must also be mailed or hand delivered to the plaintiff(s) attorney, or if the plaintiff(s) has no attorney, to the plaintiff.

**IF YOU DO NOT DO ALL OF THESE THINGS WITHIN 5 DAYS (NOT INCLUDING SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS, AND LEGAL HOLIDAYS FOR YOUR COURTHOUSE) YOU MAY BE EVICTED WITHOUT A HEARING OR FURTHER NOTICE.**

**SUMMONS ACTION FOR BACK RENT OR OTHER DAMAGES**

Each defendant is further required to serve written defenses to the demand for back rent or any other damages alleged in the complaint on the above (insert landlord's name and address)\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_W  
ithin 20 days after service of this summons on the defendant, exclusive of the day of service, and to file the original of the written defenses with the Clerk of the Court either before service on (insert landlord's name)\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ or thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against the defendant for the relief demanded in that portion of the complaint.

You may want to call a lawyer right away. If you do not know a lawyer, you can contact the Lawyer Referral Service on The Florida Bar's website. If you cannot afford a lawyer, you may be eligible for free legal aid. You can locate legal aid programs by searching for "legal aid" on The Florida Bar's website.

If you cannot afford an attorney, you may contact Florida Rural Legal Services at (239) 334-4554 (Ft. Myers) or <https://www.frls.org>. If you do not qualify for free legal assistance or do not know an attorney, you may use an attorney referral service or contact the Florida Bar Referral Service at (800) 342-8011 or <https://www.floridabar.org/public/lrs/>.

**This space left blank**

**THE STATE OF FLORIDA:  
TO EACH SHERIFF OF THE STATE:**

You are commanded to serve this summons and a copy of the complaint in this lawsuit on the above-named defendant.

Dated on \_\_\_\_\_

(COURT SEAL)

NADIA K. DAUGHTREY  
DESOTO CLERK OF COURTS

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk  
115 East Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266

**If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the DeSoto Clerk of Court at 863-993-4876 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.**

**SEVEN DAY NOTICE  
(With Cure)**

TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tenant's full name  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tenant's Address

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that you have violated the terms of your written lease or rental agreement by: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

on the following-described property: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Demand is hereby made that you remedy the non-compliance within 7 days of receipt of this notice or your lease or rental agreement shall be deemed terminated and you shall vacate the premises upon such termination. If this same conduct or conduct in a similar nature is repeated within 12 months, your tenancy is subject to termination without your being given an opportunity to cure the non-compliance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landlord's signature  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Landlord's address  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, being at least 18 years of age, declare under penalty of perjury that I served the Three Day Notice, of which this is a true copy, on the above-mentioned Tenant in possession in the manner(s) indicated below:

- \_\_\_ On \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_, I handed the Notice to the tenant.
- \_\_\_ I handed the Notice to a person of suitable age (over 15 years of age) and discretion at the tenant's residence on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_ I posted the Notice in a conspicuous place at the tenant's residence on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_.

Executed on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner

IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Name and Address)  
Plaintiff(s),

vs.

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Name and Address)  
Defendant(s).

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**NOTICE OF PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS**

I/We, \_\_\_\_\_, the Plaintiff(s) in the above styled cause of action hereby certify that my/our permanent mailing address is as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**I/WE UNDERSTAND THAT ONLY THIS ADDRESS WILL BE USED BY THE COURT, THE OPPOSING PARTY, AND ANY INTERVENING PARTIES TO THIS CASE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ME WITH:**

- a. Notice of all future hearings in this case, and
- b. Any Court documents and papers pertaining to this case.

I/We understand that all notices and court papers in this case will be sent to me/us only at the above address and that in the event personal service of any court documents is necessary that they will first be attempted to be served at the above listed address unless and until I/We notify the court of my/our new address. I/We also understand that if I/We change my/our permanent mailing address or residence address, I/We must notify the Clerk of Court of my/our new address **in writing** by completion of another form similar to this form at the following address within one week of the change of address and with a copy being furnished to all parties:

CLERK OF COURT  
Attn: County Civil  
115 East Oak Street  
Arcadia, Florida 34266

I/We have read this document and I/We understand that it is my/our responsibility to keep the Court informed of any change in my/our current address. I/We understand that copies of any court documents and notice of all future hearings which are mailed to my/our current address set forth herein will constitute proper notice and service, and the Court may proceed on all matters noticed and mailed to the above address even if I/We do not appear for said hearing.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature



IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address,  
Plaintiff(s),

vs.

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address,  
Defendant(s).

**STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY**  
**Landlord - Tenant Action**

Before filing this case, I have considered the following matters and acknowledge that:

1. This case is being filed in the County Court under the Landlord and Tenant Law of Florida, Chapter 83 Florida Statutes and as set forth in Chapter 51. That the conduct of this case will be in accordance with the rules of procedure and laws of Florida which apply to this case.
2. The naming of proper parties is an important element of the case and the responsibility for naming the proper plaintiff(s) and defendant(s) in this case is mine.
3. I am responsible for the furnishing of a correct address or location at which the defendant(s) can be served or given notice of this suit.
4. I assume responsibility as to my right to file this case for myself or for the named plaintiff(s) realizing that if the plaintiff is a corporation that such plaintiff may be required to be represented by an attorney.
5. I do not expect the Clerk who receives and files this claim to give me legal advice as to how to prosecute this case and acknowledge that the Clerk is not acting as my attorney or legal advisor.
6. I am solely responsible for the collection of any judgment entered in my favor.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address  
Plaintiff(s),

vs.

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address  
Defendant(s).

**COMPLAINT FOR TENANT EVICTION  
(Seven Day Notice)**

Plaintiff sues defendant and alleges:

1. This is an action to evict a tenant from real property in DeSoto County, Florida. This is not a mobile home in a park. This is not commercial property.

2. Plaintiff(s) owns the following-described real property, to-wit: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

3. That the defendant(s) has possession of the property under a written agreement. A copy of the written agreement is attached as Exhibit "A".

4. The rental agreement (check **one**) \_\_\_ **does** \_\_\_ **does not** apply to a mobile home. If mobile home, the agreement covers (check **one**) \_\_\_ **mobile home and lot** \_\_\_ **lot only**.

5. Plaintiff(s) served defendant(s) with a notice on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_, to deliver possession for the following reason:

\_\_\_ A. Non-compliance with rental agreement with cure. (F.S.83.56(2)(b)).

\_\_\_ B. Non-compliance with rental agreement without cure (F.S.83.56(2)(a)).

Please state the non-compliance: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

A copy of the Notice is attached as Exhibit "B".

6. Defendant(s) has failed to comply with the above Notice and refuses to deliver possession.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff(s) demands judgment for possession of the property against defendant(s).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Plaintiff or Agent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF FLORIDA,  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_.

SWORN TO and subscribed before me by \_\_\_\_\_, who is personally known to me or produced \_\_\_\_\_ as identification this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public or Deputy Clerk

IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Plaintiff

Vs.

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I, Nadia K. Daughtrey, Clerk of the County Court, do hereby certify that pursuant to Florida Statutes 48.183, the landlord has provided the Clerk of the Court with copies of the complaint and pre-stamped envelopes addressed to the defendant(s) and complaint were mailed to:

I further certify that the filing of this Certificate of Mailing has been properly docketed and on the date below copies of the summons and complaint were mailed to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Service shall be effective on the date of posting or mailing, whichever occurs later; and at least 5 days from the date of service must have elapsed before a judgment for final removal of the defendant may be entered.

Dated on: \_\_\_\_\_

Nadia K. Daughtrey  
Clerk of the Court  
Desoto County, Florida

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

**DEFAULT PACKAGE FOR EVICTION FOR  
OTHER THAN NON-PAYMENT OF RENT  
(POSSESSION)**

**Motion for Clerk's Default:**

Type or clearly print the names of the parties and fill in the appropriate blank lines. Present the form to the Clerk's office and a deputy clerk will verify that a response has not been filed within the five (5) day time limit. If a response has not been filed the Clerk will enter the Default.

**Affidavit of Court Costs and Non-Military Service:**

Type or clearly print names of the parties and fill in the appropriate blank lines. Please sign this form before a notary public or a deputy clerk.

**Motion for Final Judgment for Possession:**

Type or clearly print the names of the parties and fill in the appropriate blank lines. Present the form to the Clerk's office.

If the Court signs the Final Judgment of Possession, the Clerk's office will issue a **WRIT OF POSSESSION**. Please complete the **INFORMATION ON AND DESCRIPTION OF DEFENDANT(S) TO GO WITH WRIT OF POSSESSION** for use by the Sheriff's Department. You may then deliver the Writ of Possession and the Information Sheet to the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office for service. A payment of \$90.00 must be made payable to the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office for service of the Writ of Possession. The Sheriff's Office will serve the Writ of Possession indicating the Defendant(s) has twenty-four (24) hours to evacuate the premises, not including weekends or holidays. The Sheriff's office will contact you to arrange a date and time to evict the Defendant(s).

IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Plaintiff(s),

vs.

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Defendant(s).

**MOTION FOR CLERK'S DEFAULT  
SEVEN DAY NOTICE**

Plaintiff asks the clerk to enter a default against \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant(s), for failing to respond as required by law to Plaintiff's complaint for residential eviction.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Plaintiff's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFAULT FOR EVICTION FOR  
SEVEN DAY NOTICE**

A default is entered in this action for eviction against the Defendant(s) for failure to respond as required by law.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**NADIA K. DAUGHTREY**  
CLERK OF COURT

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Plaintiff(s),

vs.

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Defendant(s).

**AFFIDAVIT OF COURT COSTS AND NON-MILITARY SERVICE**

STATE OF FLORIDA,  
COUNTY OF DESOTO.

Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, who being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. That he/she is the Landlord of rented premises located in DeSoto County,  
Florida, described as follows: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

2. That Defendant(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
rented the subject premises from the Landlord by \_\_\_ oral \_\_\_ written agreement.

3. The Landlord, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, served a seven (7)  
day notice possession of the premises.

4. The Defendant(s) failed to comply with the demand of the notice within  
the applicable time period.

5. The Landlord has paid a filing fee in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ and a  
service of process fee in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

6. The Defendant(s) is/are not now nor has/have been in the military service  
of the United States of America since the institution of this action.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landlord

STATE OF FLORIDA,  
COUNTY OF DESOTO.

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, by \_\_\_\_\_  
who is personally known to me or who has produced \_\_\_\_\_  
as identification and who [ ] did [ ] did not take an oath.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary public or deputy clerk



IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLOIRDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Plaintiff(s),

vs.

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Defendant(s).

**MOTION FOR FINAL JUDGMENT FOR POSSESSION -  
RESIDENTIAL EVICTION – SEVEN DAY NOTICE**

Plaintiff(s) asks the court to enter a Final Judgment for Possession against \_\_\_\_\_, the Defendant(s) for residential eviction and says:

1. Plaintiff filed a complaint alleging grounds for residential eviction of Defendant(s).
2. A Default was entered by the Clerk of Court on \_\_\_\_\_.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff asks this court to enter a Final Judgment for Possession against Defendant(s).

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Plaintiff's signature

IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Name and Address)  
Plaintiff(s),

vs.

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Name and Address)  
Defendant(s).

**INFORMATION ON AND DESCRIPTION OF DEFENDANT(S)  
TO GO WITH WRIT OF POSSESSION**  
(This is information for Sheriff's Department for purposes of identification)

DEFENDANT NO. 1:

1. Defendant's last known place of employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Working hours: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Physical description of Defendant:

Race: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_ Date of Birth or Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Eye Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Hair Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Distinguishing marks and/or scars: \_\_\_\_\_

Other names Defendant goes by (aliases or nicknames): \_\_\_\_\_

DEFENDANT NO. 2:

3. Defendant's last known place of employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Working hours: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Physical description of Defendant:

Race: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_ Date of Birth or Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Eye Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Hair Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Distinguishing marks and/or scars: \_\_\_\_\_

Other names Defendant goes by (aliases or nicknames): \_\_\_\_\_

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Landlord/Plaintiff  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Plaintiff(s),

vs.

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CASE NO. -----

Defendant(s).

**ANSWER—RESIDENTIAL EVICTION**

1. The defendant answers the complaint as follows:

(Check ONLY 1, a. or b.)

\_\_\_\_\_a. Defendant generally denies each statement of the complaint.

\_\_\_\_\_b. Defendant admits that all the statements of the complaint are true EXCEPT:

\_\_\_\_\_ (i) The following statement(s) in paragraph(s) of the complaint is/are false. Please explain:

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\_\_\_\_\_ (ii) I do not know whether the information in paragraph(s) of the complaint is/are true or false, so I am denying them.

2. If you write down any defense other than payment of rent, then you must take one of the following steps:

\_\_\_\_\_a. If you agree with the landlord about the rent owed, then you must pay the rent owed into the court registry when you file this response.

\_\_\_\_\_b. If you disagree with the landlord about the rent owed for any reason, then you must check box 3(b) below and describe with detail why you disagree.

\_\_\_\_\_c. You MUST pay the Clerk of the Court the rent each time it becomes due until the lawsuit is over.

If you fail to follow these instructions, then you will lose your defenses. You will not have a hearing in your case and you may be evicted without a court date.

3. The defendant sets forth the following defenses to the complaint: (Check ONLY the defenses that apply, and state brief facts to support each checked defense.)

\_\_\_\_a. The landlord did not make repairs, and I withheld my rent after sending written notice to the landlord. (Attach a copy of the written notice to the landlord.) Please explain:

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\_\_\_\_b. I do not owe the total amount of rent or ongoing amount of rent the landlord claims I owe. I am also asking this court to determine the amount of rent that must be deposited into the court registry and requesting a hearing. (**Motion to Determine Rent.**) Please explain:\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_c. I attempted/offered to pay all the rent due before the notice to pay rent expired, but the landlord did not accept the rent payment. Please explain:\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_d. I paid the rent demanded by the landlord in the notice to pay rent. Please explain:\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_e. The landlord waived, changed, or canceled the notice that required me to move out of the residence. Please explain:\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_f. The landlord filed the eviction in retaliation against me. For example, the tenant has complained to a governmental agency charged with responsibility for enforcement of building, housing, or health codes of a suspected violation, or tenant has complained directly to the landlord. Please

explain:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_g. The landlord filed the eviction in violation of the Federal Fair Housing Act and/or the Florida Fair Housing Act. Please

explain:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_h. The landlord accepted rent from me after sending me the notice to terminate. Please

explain:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_i. I already corrected the violations claimed by the landlord on the notice to terminate. Please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_j. The landlord is not the owner of the property where I live. Please

explain:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_k. I did not receive the notice to terminate or the notice was legally incorrect. Please

explain:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

l. Other defenses. Please explain:

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**4. You have a constitutional right to request a trial by a jury of your peers instead of a judge. However, there are some things you should know about this right:**

- a. You may have waived this right in your lease, so review it carefully before requesting a jury trial.
  - b. If you want a jury trial, you should request it in writing when you file your answer or you may waive your right to a jury trial.
  - c. Jury trials are not simple to conduct. You will bear some responsibility in the process and, if you are unprepared, it may be difficult to represent yourself in a jury trial. Additionally, once you request a jury trial, if you change your mind and you want the judge to decide your case, the landlord will need to agree.
  - d. If you have questions about whether to request a jury trial, you should speak with an attorney.
5. Select whether you want to request a jury trial: (Check only one.)  
 \_\_\_\_\_I want a judge to decide my case.  
 \_\_\_\_\_I want a jury to decide my case.

All of the statements made above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Signature:\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name:\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number:\_\_\_\_\_

E-mailAddress:\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Each defendant named in the complaint for whom this answer is filed must sign this answer unless the defendant’s attorney signs.