

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT FORM

PURPOSE. This form is to be used when you have been served with a summons and complaint and you do not have a counterclaim against the opposing party.

FORMS INVOLVED. The form is an **Answer** to the opposing party's complaint and is required if you want to contest the complaint. You will need to fill in the necessary information with help from the instructions below and then file the original with the appropriate court and mail a copy to the opposing party or their attorney.

WARNING. You must file an answer to plaintiff's complaint within thirty (30) days of service of the summons and complaint upon you or you are in default and judgment could be entered against you. This does not apply to an eviction summons and complaint in which case you must file an answer within seven (7) days of service of an eviction summons and complaint upon you.

What do I do if I am served with a Summons and Complaint. This section explains what to do if you are served with a summons and complaint. If you are served with a summons and complaint you are being sued for some reason. As a result you must file an Answer with the court and a copy on the plaintiff within 30 days of service of the summons and complaint is served upon you or you are in default. Read the summons and complaint carefully. Other actions, such as eviction actions, have a much shorter time period to answer. The summons will tell you how long you have to file an answer from the date you are served with the summons and complaint. The complaint will tell you what the plaintiff(s) claim is against you.

What is an Answer. An Answer is a pleading where the defendant(s) responds to the plaintiff(s) complaint. You can answer the plaintiff(s) complaint by denying and/or admitting to any parts or all of plaintiff(s) allegations in the complaint. If you have any **affirmative defenses** to plaintiff(s) complaint you must specifically plead these affirmative defenses in your answer. If you fail to raise any affirmative defenses you may have you will be barred from using such a defense. This means that if you fail to raise an affirmative defense you waive the right to use such a defense. Affirmative defenses include accord and satisfaction (meaning you already settled this matter with the opposing party), arbitration and award (meaning an independent arbitrator already decided the case before the court did) assumption of the risk, contributory negligence, discharge in bankruptcy, duress (you were forced or threatened to do something you did not want to do), estoppel (meaning the other party cannot complain against their own actions), failure of consideration, fraud, injury by fellow servant, illegality, laches (meaning the other party waited too long to bring the action), license, payment, release (meaning the other party released you from any obligation), res judicata (meaning the court has already heard and decided the matter in an earlier case involving the same thing as this case), statute of frauds, statute of limitations (meaning the other party did not bring the action in the time set out in the code) and waiver (meaning the other party waived any claim they had). You must prove any affirmative defenses you raise in your Reply by a preponderance of the evidence at trial.

You also may need to file a counterclaim with your answer. A **counterclaim** is like the plaintiff(s) complaint in that it sets out your cause of action against the plaintiff(s). You must file a counterclaim on any claim you have against the plaintiff(s) if it arises out of the same

transaction or occurrence raised in the plaintiff(s) complaint. Failure to do so could result in the court barring your claim. If you have a separate claim against the plaintiff(s) you do not have to counterclaim and can start a new action against the plaintiff(s) by filing your own summons and complaint. If you have a counterclaim against the plaintiff please use **Answer and Counterclaim form**.

How to file an Answer. You must file an Answer to the plaintiff's summons and complaint by filing the original with the court and by mailing a copy to the plaintiff if they are not represented by legal counsel or to their attorney if the plaintiff is represented. Look at the summons you received with the complaint, it will tell you where to mail your answer.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THE FORM. To fill out this form follow these instructions. The numbers to each instruction below is the number on the blank line on the form where the information for that number needs to be inserted on the form.

Instructions for filling out the Answer:

- (1) on this line insert the name of the opposing party(s).
- (2) on this line insert your name.
- (3) on this line insert the numbered paragraphs of the plaintiff's complaint that you admit or do not contest. By admitting to a paragraph you can not dispute that allegations at the trial.
- (4) insert the numbered paragraphs of the plaintiff's complaint that you can neither admit or deny because you do not have knowledge or information of whether that allegation is true.
- (5) insert the numbered paragraph of the plaintiff's complaint that you deny or contest. By denying a paragraph you can challenge that allegation at trial.
- (6) list any affirmative defenses you may have. If you have any affirmative defenses to plaintiff(s) complaint you must specifically plead these affirmative defenses in your answer. If you fail to raise any affirmative defenses you may have you will be barred from using such a defense. This means that if you fail to raise an affirmative defense you waive the right to use such a defense. If you have any affirmative defenses to plaintiff(s) complaint you must specifically plead these affirmative defenses in your answer. If you fail to raise any affirmative defenses you may have you will be barred from using such a defense. This means that if you fail to raise an affirmative defense you waive the right to use such a defense. Affirmative defenses include accord and satisfaction (meaning you already settled this matter with the opposing party), arbitration and award (meaning an independent arbitrator already decided the case before the court did) assumption of the risk, contributory negligence, discharge in bankruptcy, duress (you were forced or threatened to do something you did not want to do), estoppel (meaning the other party cannot complain against their own actions), failure of consideration, fraud, injury by fellow servant, illegality, laches (meaning the other party waited too long to bring the action), license, payment, release (meaning the other party released you from any obligation), res judicata (meaning the court has already heard and decided the matter in an earlier case involving the same thing as this case), statute of frauds, statute of limitations (meaning the other party did not bring the action in the time set out in the code) and waiver (meaning the other party waived any claim they had).
- (7) on this line insert the day.
- (8) on this line insert the month.

(9) on this line insert the year.

(10) on this line insert your name by signing.

(11) on this line insert the address where you mailed your answer. It will be either the plaintiff if they are not representing by legal counsel or to their attorney if the plaintiff is represented. Look at the summons you received with the complaint, it will tell you where to mail your answer and counterclaim.

**ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBAL COURT)
ROSEBUD INDIAN RESERVATION)SS
ROSEBUD , SOUTH DAKOTA)**

IN CIVIL COURT

(1) _____

DOCKET _____

PLAINTIFF(S)

ANSWER

VS

(2) _____

DEFENDANT(S)

Comes now, the above named defendant and for his/her answer to plaintiff's complaint states and alleges as follows:

1. That the plaintiff's complaint fails to state a claim or cause of action against defendant for which relief may be granted, and defendant moves that the same be dismissed on the merits and with prejudice.

2. That defendant denies each and every allegation contained in plaintiff's complaint, except those specifically admitted to herein.

3. That defendant admits the allegations contained in paragraphs (3) _____ of the plaintiff's complaint; alleges that he is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph (4) _____ of the complaint.

4. That defendant denies the allegations contained in paragraphs (5) _____ of the plaintiff's complaint.

5. That plaintiff(s) has other adequate legal remedy to prevent future harm and there is less restrictive means to prevent such harm to plaintiff(s).

6. That plaintiff(s) has administrative remedies and has exhausted all administrative remedies.

7. That plaintiff(s) will not suffer irreparable harm which can be solved by awarding money damages.

8. That greater harm will not be done to plaintiff(s) by the refusal of injunctive relief than will be occasioned to defendant(s) by the granting of such relief.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

As and for affirmative defenses to the plaintiff's Complaint, defendant alleges:

1.(6) _____
_____.

2.(6) _____
_____.

3.(6) _____
_____.

Wherefore, defendant prays that the relief requested in plaintiff's complaint be denied and that plaintiff's complaint be dismissed with prejudice.

Dated this (7)____ day of (8)_____, (9)_____.

(10)_____
Defendant

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that I served a true and correct copy of the forgoing Answer upon the plaintiff or their attorney by first class mail by depositing said copy in the United States Mail addressed to plaintiffs or plaintiffs attorney's last address at (11)_____
_____.

Dated this (7)____ day of (8)_____, (9)_____.

(10)_____
Defendant