

IN JACKSON COUNTY COURT  
IN AND FOR JACKSON COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SMALL CLAIMS DIVISION  
4445 Lafayette Street, Post Office Box 510, Marianna, FL 399447

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, Plaintiff

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

-VS-

\_\_\_\_\_, Defendant

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

**SUMMONS  
NOTICE TO APPEAR FOR PRETRIAL CONFERENCE / MEDIATION**

STATE OF FLORIDA  
NOTICE TO PLAINTIFF(S) AND DEFENDANTS(S)

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that you are required to appear in person or by attorney at the \_\_\_\_\_  
Jackson County Courthouse, Second Floor, located at \_\_\_\_\_, Marianna, Florida, on  
\_\_\_\_\_ AT \_\_\_\_\_.M.

**IMPORTANT - READ CAREFULLY**

**THE CASE WILL NOT BE TRIED AT THE PRETRIAL CONFERENCE,  
BUT MAY BE MEDIATED AT THAT TIME.  
DO NOT BRING WITNESSES. YOU MUST APPEAR IN PERSON  
OR BY ATTORNEY.**

**WHOEVER APPEARS FOR A PARTY MUST HAVE FULL AUTHORITY TO SETTLE FOR ALL AMOUNTS  
FROM ZERO TO THE AMOUNT OF THE CLAIM WITHOUT FURTHER CONSULTATION. FAILURE TO  
COMPLY MAY RESULT IN THE IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS INCLUDING COSTS, ATTORNEY FEES,  
ENTRY OF JUDGMENT OR DISMISSAL.**

The defendant(s) must appear in court on the date specified in order to avoid a default judgment. The plaintiff(s) must appear to avoid having the case dismissed for lack of prosecution. A written MOTION or ANSWER to the court by the plaintiff(s) or defendant(s) shall not excuse the personal appearance of a party or their attorney in the PRETRIAL CONFERENCE/MEDIATION. The date and time of the pretrial conference CANNOT be rescheduled without good cause and prior court approval.

A corporation may be represented at any state of the trial court proceedings by an officer of the corporation or any employee authorized in writing by an officer of the corporation. Written authorization must be brought to the Pretrial Conference/Mediation.

The purpose of the pretrial conference is to record your appearance, to determine if you admit all or part of the claim, to enable the court to determine the nature of the case, and to set the case for trial if the case cannot be resolved at the pretrial conference. You and your attorney should be prepared to confer with the court and to explain briefly the nature of your dispute, exhibit any documents necessary to prove the

case, state the names and addresses of your witnesses, stipulate to the facts that will require no proof and will expedite the trial, and estimate how long it will take to try your case.

### **MEDIATION**

Mediation may take place during the time scheduled for the pretrial conference. Mediation is a process whereby a neutral and impartial third person called a mediator acts to encourage and facilitate the resolution of a dispute between two or more parties, without prescribing what a resolution should be. It is an informal and non-adversarial process, with the objective of helping the disputing parties reach a mutually acceptable and voluntary agreement.

In mediation, decision making rests with the parties. Negotiations in county court mediation are primarily conducted by the parties. Counsel for each party may participate. However, the presence of counsel is not required. If a full agreement is not reached at mediation, the remaining issues of the case will be set for trial. Mediation communications are confidential and privileged except where disclosures are required or permitted by law.

If you admit the claim, but desire additional time to pay, you must come and state the circumstances. The court may or may not approve of the payment plan and may withhold judgment or execution or levy.

**RIGHT TO VENUE: The law gives the person or company who has sued you the right to file in any one of several places listed below. However, if you have been sued in any place other than one of these places, you, as the defendant(s), have the right to request that the case be moved to a proper location or venue. A proper location or venue may be one of the following: (1) where the contract was entered into; (2) if the suit is on an unsecured promissory note, where the note is signed or where the maker resides; (3) if the suit is to recover property or to foreclose a lien, where the property is located; (4) where the event giving rise to the suit occurred; (5) where any one or more of the defendants sued reside; (6) any location agreed to in a contract; (7) in an action for money due, if there is no agreement as to where the suit may be filed, where payment is to be made.**

If you, as the defendant(s), believe that plaintiff(s) has/have not sued in one of these correct places, you must file a WRITTEN request for transfer in affidavit form (sworn to under oath) with the court seven (7) days prior to your first court date and send a copy of to the plaintiff(s) or the plaintiff(s) attorney, if any.

A copy of the statement of claim shall be served with this summons.

DATED at Marianna, Florida, on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Clayton O. Rooks, III  
Clerk of Court, Jackson County, Florida

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
As Deputy Clerk of the County Court