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

THE STATE OF TEXAS § IN THE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

VS. § IN AND FOR

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ § \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY, TEXAS

# EXPLANATION OF RIGHT TO AN ATTORNEY

As a defendant in a criminal case, you have three options regarding how you proceed in your case:

1. You may hire an attorney to represent you;
2. You may request an attorney be appointed to represent you if you are financially unable to hire one;
3. You may represent yourself.

If you want an attorney to represent you and you are financially able to hire one, the Court will give you time to do so.

If you want an attorney to represent you and are not financially able to hire one, you must fill out a financial information sheet so that the proper person can determine whether or not to appoint an attorney to represent you.

**If you choose to waive your right to an attorney and represent yourself, remember you always have the right to change your mind at any time while your case is pending and obtain an attorney either through hiring one or requesting the Court to appoint one to represent you.**

You may not speak with one of the prosecutors about your case unless you waive your right to 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.

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

Judge Presiding

DEFENDANT”S CHOICE

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to represent myself. Therefore, I am waiving my right to be represented by an attorney. **I understand I can change my mind and ask for an attorney at any time.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to hire an attorney.

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to apply for a court appointed attorney.

\_\_\_\_\_ I already have an attorney, whose name is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_