



# **JUSTICE COURT SUITS**

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*The Court and its staff cannot tell  
you what you should do about your  
problem*

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## ***“But your Clerk said...”***

The *Code of Judicial Conduct* prohibits a Judge or court staff from “practicing law” (giving legal advice). The Code further prohibits the Justice of the Peace from engaging in communications concerning the merits of a pending judicial proceeding, or the merits of an impending claim or dispute.

*Court clerks in every Court have specific instructions not to attempt to advise parties to Court cases.* Sometimes this results in frustration for the public. Relying on incorrect information could result in an avoidable expense, or even losing a lawsuit.

## ***“I just want to talk to the Judge...”***

The *Code* further prohibits the Justice of the Peace from engaging in communications concerning the merits of a pending judicial proceeding, or the merits of an impending claim or dispute. This means a judge can only discuss matters when *all parties* to a lawsuit are present during the discussions. Most people understand this when they consider how they would feel about the judge discussing their case with the other side without their knowledge or consent.

We have many packets of procedural information on specific topics that are free to the public, that contain much useful information. These include:

*Can the Justice Court Help?*  
*Evictions*  
*Small Claims and Civil Justice Court*  
*Issuance of Bad Check and Theft by Check*

## ***“Do I need a lawyer?”***

You should seek professional, licensed, legal counsel for advice. Among others, the following services may be helpful:

<b>West Texas Legal Services:</b>	<b>940-383-1406</b>
<b>Legal Advice for Women:</b>	<b>800-777-FAIR</b>
<b>Legal Line:</b>	<b>214-749-7900</b>
<b>Denton Bar Association:</b>	<b>940-383-1406</b>
<b>Legal Hot Line for Older Texans:</b>	<b>800-622-2520</b>
<b>Denton County Law Library</b>	<b>940-349-2130</b>