Justice of the Peace Precinct 4 Place 1

INFORMATION FOR "PRO SE" LITIGANTS

1. A "**Pro Se**" litigant (plaintiff or defendant) is one who does not retain an attorney and appears for himself in court.

2. **Small Claims** procedures are governed by the **Texas Government Code**; however, laws concerning **Justice Court** cases can be found in the **Texas Rules of Court,** including but not limited to the **Rules of Civil Procedure** and the **Rules of Evidence. Evictions** and some other civil matters are also governed by the **Texas Property Code.** Like an attorney you are expected to know and follow all rules that apply.

3. You are **prohibited** from having any contact with the Judge hearing your case unless all parties and/or their attorneys are present. This prohibited communication known as "**Ex Parte**" includes phone calls, letters, messages, faxes, e-mails, and direct or indirect conversations. Formal pleadings, motions, and requests for relief filed with the Clerk of the Court are not considered prohibited communication.

4. For every pleading you file with the court, you must send a copy to the opposing party's attorney or the opposing party if they do not have an attorney.

5. The Judge, Court Clerk, or attorney for the opposing party **CANNOT** give you legal advice.

6. Violations of any of the above may result in severe sanctions being granted against you.

7. If you do not have an attorney, the following associations may assist you in obtaining an attorney or legal advice:

   Legal Aid of Northwest Texas

   Wichita County Bar Association