**CAUSE NO. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

IN THE MATTER OF § IN THE TRUANCY COURT

§

§

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, § PRECINCT \_\_\_\_

A CHILD §

§

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

**TRUANT CONDUCT RIGHTS INFORMATION SHEET**

* You have the right to answer “not true” to the statements against you. The truant conduct prosecutor (“Petitioner”) will be required to prove the truant conduct beyond a reasonable doubt.
* You have the right to claim an affirmative defense to truant conduct but are not required to. It is an affirmative defense to truant conduct that one or more of the absences required to be proved have been excused by a school official or by the court; were involuntary; or were due to your voluntary absence from the child’s home because of abuse.
* You have a right to file a motion for this case to be dismissed if you have a mental illness.
* You have the right to a trial by jury, and you may not be charged a fee for exercising that right. If you have a trial by jury, the jury must be unanimous in order to find that you engaged in truant conduct.
* You have the right to an interpreter if you are hearing-impaired or if you do not speak the English language.
* You have a right to question the witnesses against you.
* You have the right not to testify (*speak*) against yourself in this case.
* You have the right to be represented by an attorney. You may hire an attorney. Note that this does not mean you are entitled to have an attorney appointed, but the court may appoint one in the interest of justice.
* You have the right to appeal the court’s decision in this case. You will have 21 days from the date of judgment to appeal.
* You have the right to have the records in this case sealed when you turn 18, if you comply with the court’s orders in the case. If the records are sealed, they may not be released or used against you in any way.