

**IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF RANKIN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

**VS.**

**CASE NO.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DEFENDANT**

**TRIAL NOTICE**

You are hereby notified that your case in Justice Court has been set for a hearing on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ at **8:30 AM**.

**Your attendance is required.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Justice Court Clerk / D.C.

**DEFENDANT'S RIGHTS**

I understand that the Constitution guarantees me:

- a. the right to an attorney at every stage of the proceedings against me;
- b. the right to have an attorney appointed to represent me **if I am found indigent**;
- c. the right to a speedy and public trial by jury;
- d. the right to see, hear, and face in open court all witnesses called to testify against me, and the right to cross examine those witnesses;
- e. the right to use the power and process of the court to compel the production of any evidence, including the attendance of any witnesses in my favor;
- f. the presumption of innocence, i.e., the State must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that I am guilty, and the right to a unanimous jury verdict of all jurors before I could be found guilty;
- g. the right to take the witness stand and testify in my own behalf if I want to; if I do not wish to take the witness stand and testify, I further understand that this fact cannot be held against me, and that the jury may be instructed that my refusal to testify may not be held against me;
- h. I understand that unless I knowingly, willingly, and voluntarily agree to do so, I cannot be compelled to give testimony against myself in violation of my Fifth Amendment rights.

**DEFENDANT'S DUTIES**

1. I understand that since I have pled not guilty:
  - a. a trial will be held on the date referenced above; and
  - b. my signature on this trial notice indicates my understanding that I am ordered to appear in this Court on the date and at the time in this notice.
2. I understand that if I fail to timely appear for trial:
  - a. the trial may be conducted in my absence;
  - b. if I am tried in my absence and if I am found guilty (convicted):
    - (1). a sentence (which may include jail time) will be imposed;
    - (2). the conviction may later be used against me for the purpose of increased or enhanced sentencing should I later be convicted of another criminal offense; and
    - (3). a warrant will be issued for my arrest;
  - c. a warrant may also be issued for my arrest for contempt of court for failing to comply with the court order to appear for trial on the specific date and at the specific time.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant