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SUBMITTING A STATEMENT OF INABILITY TO AFFORD PAYMENT OF COURT COSTS

The County of El Paso and its Courts are committed to providing meaningful access to the courts even if you may not be able to afford the fees usually required in a case. Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 145 requires that you have the opportunity to consider whether you wish to document your financial situation and request that the court accept your filing without requiring payment of court fees.

The Supreme Court of Texas provides a form called a "Statement of Inability to Afford Payment of Court Costs or an Appeal Bond." The Council of Judges of El Paso have adopted this form in order to better process your request. The clerk will provide you with this form or you may use a guided online form to prepare and submit the statement. The online form generator may be found at <https://selfhelp.efiletexas.gov/SRL/SRL/ExecutivInterview>.

When filling out the form, please be as complete as possible. Your form may be reviewed for completeness by the court, and during the course of your case the court may revisit the question of your court fees. PLEASE NOTE: the Statement of Inability to Afford Payment of Court Costs requires you to swear before a notary or acknowledge that you are filing your information under penalty of perjury. Perjury includes making a false statement or swearing to the truth of a false statement, and is punishable by a fine or possibly jail time. Please make sure your answers on the statement are truthful and it is helpful to provide your supporting information when you file your statement.

The Statement will require the following information from you:

- Name of the party submitting the Statement (Your name)
- Amount income from government programs
- Amount of pay from a job or other sources of income
- Cash or savings you may have
- Other property besides the homestead (a house that you own or will own), such as a car or land
- Dependents (children or other family)
- Information on your monthly expenses such as rent, utilities, debt repayment, etc.

If you have applied for free legal services from a legal aid provider, please attach the certificate and any other financial documentation to help the clerk process your Statement.

This informational brochure is provided as an aid to submitting a Statement of Inability to Pay Court Costs and is not in any way intended to be a substitute for legal advice as to a party's rights under the law. The District Clerk's Office and its employees may not provide legal advice. Should you have questions about the definitions or legal requirements for the Statement, please contact an attorney.