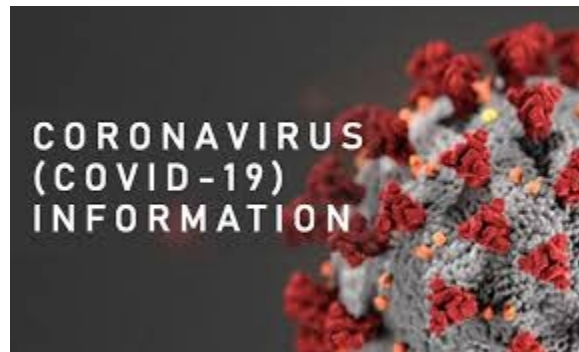


COVID-19 RESPONSE & RESOURCE GUIDE



Due to concerns regarding COVID-19, people are being advised to stay at home to promote social distancing. As part of our ongoing efforts to assist during the COVID-19 pandemic we continue to offer legal services remotely through our Opal Mitchell Lee Property Preservation Project, Juvenile Justice Project, Clean Slate Cooperative and TMSL Innocence Project. We have compiled a list of resources that are available to persons impacted and Attorneys. This list will be updated as we learn of new resources.

Opal Mitchell Lee Property Preservation Project



If you are concerned about being able to stay in your home or believe that you are at risk of eviction or foreclosure due to economic issues caused by loss of employment or other financial implications resulting from the stay at home orders, please contact our office for assistance with eviction defense, landlord/tenant issues and foreclosure defense. The Opal Mitchell Lee Property Preservation Project will advocate for you so that you and your family can continue to be safe in your home. We can also assist with estate planning so that you can be certain that your house is in order during these uncertain times.

For more information on our services, or to fill out an application please go to:

http://www.tsulaw.edu/centers/ECI/apply_for_legal_services.html

TEXAS EVICTIONS

In response to COVID-19 Emergency Order 9 was issued on April 6, 2020, the Supreme Court prohibiting a trial, hearing, or other proceeding in an eviction to recover possession

of residential property under Chapter 24 of the Property Code and Rule 510 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure until after April 30, 2020.

To view the order: <https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1446345/209052.pdf>

FORECLOSURES

Federal Government Mandates

A new federal law, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, puts in place two protections for homeowners with federally backed mortgages:

- A foreclosure moratorium
- A right to forbearance for homeowners who are experiencing a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 emergency.

If you don't have a federally backed mortgage, you still may have relief options through your mortgage servicer or from your state.

Harris County Mandates

Harris County has passed temporary rules that may help protect you against foreclosures or from having your foreclosed property sold at auction.

The Harris County Commissioners Court cancelled the April 7, 2020 tax foreclosure sale. No foreclosed homes will be sold at auction in April. To view the hearing: <https://harriscountytexas.new.swagit.com/videos/44449>

For information on foreclosure protection orders issued by other Texas counties visit: <https://sites.utexas.edu/covid19relief/foreclosure-protections/>

PROPERTY TAXES

Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector & Voter Registrar Ann Harris Bennett announced that the Tax Office is providing a three-month extension of all 12-month delinquent property tax payment plans as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Property owners with 12-month installment payment plans will not have to make payments for March, April, or May 2020.

To view the announcement: <https://www.hctax.net/About/Announcements/March232020>

CONSUMER DEBT

In response to COVID-19 Emergency Order 10 was issued by the Texas Supreme Court. The Court has issued an emergency order halting garnishments and default judgements in consumer debt cases.

Juvenile Justice Project



In light of concerns regarding COVID-19, the schools, including DAEP placements, have been closed. There have been concerns raised about whether students in DAEP placements will be receiving credit for the time period the school is closed. JJP will advocate for children and families who share this concern. JJP services include (but are not limited to) direct legal representation in school disciplinary actions & special education.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

JJP will advocate for children and families who share this concern. JJP services include (but are not limited to) direct legal representation in school disciplinary actions & special education.

RECORD CLEARING

JJP understands how having a criminal record can negatively impact a person's life and how important it is to be able to have the record cleared. We offer pro bono criminal record expunction and non-disclosure services for people who have faced a criminal charge between the ages of 17-25 years old through our Clean Slate Cooperative.

For more information on our services, or to fill out an application please go to:

http://www.tsulaw.edu/centers/ECI/apply_for_legal_services.html

PUBLIC SCHOOL INFORMATION

School Closures

Texas public schools were ordered to remain closed until May 4, 2020 pursuant to an Executive Order issued by Texas Governor Gregg Abbott on March 31, 2020.

To view the order:

https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/EO-GA-14_Statewide_Essential_Service_and_Activity_COVID-19_IMAGE_03-31-2020.pdf

GENERAL RESOURCES

Many Harris County residents need help and advice dealing with COVID-19. Our local, state, and federal partners have programs in place to provide assistance with basic needs including housing, food, and healthcare. A list of these resources can be located on Harris County's ReadyHarris.org site at: <https://www.readyharris.org/Incidents/COVID-19-Resources-Recovery>