



For Immediate Release

Next Fresh Start set for May 3; Online pre-registration for criminal record screening and sealing to launch at noon on Monday, April 14

April 11, 2025 — Worried a criminal record from your past might be holding you back? Trying to get connected to community resources but struggling to navigate the network of services? Need help with a civil legal matter but don't know where to go for guidance?

Mark your calendar for Fresh Start on **Saturday, May 3, 2025, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Harris County Jury Plaza, 1201 Congress St. in downtown Houston.**

“Fresh Start directly helps individuals participating in the program, but its benefits ripple throughout our community,” Harris County Criminal Courts at Law Presiding Judge Erika Ramirez said. “When we help people meet their basic needs and become productive citizens, it helps to reduce recidivism and make our communities safer.”

Online pre-registration for criminal record screening and sealing is required and starts at **noon on Monday, April 14.** Space is limited to 300 people, and slots fill quickly: www.ccl.hctx.net/FreshStart.htm.

In addition to record sealing, the May Fresh Start will feature:

- **Know Your Rights Housing Workshop* for Landlords and Tenants:** Learn about contracts, expectations, landlord and tenant rights, and the eviction process.
- **South Texas College of Law Legal Clinics:** Apply to determine your eligibility for assistance with civil legal matters, including debt relief and estate planning.
- **Consulate General of Mexico in Houston:** Access support for Mexican citizens in need of legal documents or legal services, including criminal, civil, immigration, labor, and administrative matters.
- **Harris County Public Health ACCESS Harris County:** Register for wraparound support and resource assistance related to education, food security, job placement, counseling, peer support, healthcare and insurance, housing, and transportation.
- **Harris County Voter Registrar:** Register to vote.

Fresh Start is offered by Harris County Criminal Courts at Law and their community outreach arm, BAYOU City Community Court, in partnership with Harris County Public Defender's Office, Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department, Harris County State District Criminal Courts, Harris County Civil Courts at Law, Neighborhood Defender Service of Texas, Houston Apartment Association, and Harris County Constable Precinct One.

For more information about Fresh Start or to pre-register, go to www.ccl.hctx.net/FreshStart.htm.

**The information provided during the free Know Your Rights Housing Workshop for Landlords and Tenants is not legal advice. Legal information is not the same as legal advice. The information provided during the workshop is not a substitute for and does not replace the advice or representation of a licensed attorney. You should consult a licensed attorney of your selection to ensure that the information provided during the workshop and your interpretation of it are appropriate for your particular situation. You should not and are not authorized to rely on information provided as a source of legal advice.*



MEDIA CONTACT

Holly Huffman, Communications Director, Office of Court Management
Email: Holly_Huffman@ccl.hctx.net