



For Immediate Release

Fresh Start criminal record sealing program to add housing rights workshop and fresh produce giveaway to upcoming resource fair on Nov. 11 in Crosby

Online pre-registration is required for criminal record sealing only and begins Oct. 16 at noon.

Oct. 13, 2023 – Fresh Start, a popular second-chance program offered by Harris County criminal misdemeanor courts, is expanding its reach next month with the addition of a housing workshop to help landlords and tenants better understand their rights.

Launching as a pilot program, the Know Your Rights Housing Workshop will premiere at the upcoming Fresh Start Resource Fair on Nov. 11 at Barrett Station/Riley Chambers Community Center in Crosby. It will focus on topics such as contracts, expectations, landlord and tenant rights, and the eviction process.

The workshop is offered by the Harris County Civil Courts at Law in partnership with the Houston Apartment Association, Neighborhood Defender Service of Texas, and BAYOU City Community Court, the community outreach arm of the Harris County Criminal Courts at Law.

“As evictions continue to rise in our community and more people come before our courts, we’re seeing a real need for more housing rights education,” said Judge LaShawn Williams, Administrative Judge for the Harris County Civil Courts at Law. “This is an opportunity for us to make that available and help both landlords and tenants before the situation becomes dire.”

The new housing workshop serves as a complement to the existing Fresh Start record sealing program, for which pre-registration begins at noon on Oct. 16. Pre-registration for the housing rights workshop is encouraged but not required. Attendees can sign up for both online at www.ccl.hctx.net/comcourt.htm.

Launched in 2022, Fresh Start helps eligible people course correct after encounters with the criminal justice system by sealing their low-level, non-violent misdemeanor criminal records and connecting them with free community services. The program aims to help people meet their basic needs, reducing recidivism and making communities safer in the process.

Fresh Start is offered by Harris County criminal misdemeanor courts in partnership with Harris County Public Defender’s Office, Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department, and BAYOU City Community Court.

“Our approach with Fresh Start is holistic and restorative — our goal is prevention through education,” said Judge Shannon Baldwin, Presiding Judge of Harris County Criminal Courts at Law. “This new workshop ties in really well with that work, and we’re excited to partner with our judicial colleagues in the county civil courts to bring it to fruition.”

Also new for the November event is a fresh produce distribution featuring Thanksgiving-style veggies, herbs, and recipes provided on a first-come, first-served basis for the first 30 people.

The fair is free and open to the public. Resources available in November include:

- **Misdemeanor criminal record sealing:** *Online pre-registration required. Opens Oct. 16 at noon:* ccl.hctx.net/comcourt.htm.
- **Housing Workshop for Landlords & Tenants:** Pre-registration encouraged: ccl.hctx.net/comcourt.htm.
- **Fresh Produce Distribution:** Free Thanksgiving-style veggies, herbs, and recipes for the first 30 people.
- **Jobs:** Job search and readiness help, on-the-job training, internships, and connection to second-chance employers.
- **Training & Education:** Welding, machining, and manufacturing programs, fast-track industrial certifications, & GED help.
- **Financial:** Help with benefits and housing.
- **Health:** Wraparound resources, lead testing, maternal/child health, substance abuse treatment, and social inequity support.

For more information about Fresh Start Resource Fair or to register for a Fresh Start program, go to ccl.hctx.net/comcourt.htm.

MEDIA CONTACT

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FRESH START RESOURCE FAIR

- **Misdemeanor criminal record sealing:**
Registration required - ccl.hctx.net/comcourt.htm
- **Know Your Rights Housing Workshop for Landlords & Tenants:** Registration preferred but not required - ccl.hctx.net/comcourt.htm
- **Fresh Produce Distribution:** Thanksgiving-style veggies, herbs & recipes for the first 30 people
- **Jobs:** Search assistance, readiness, help finding documents needed for a new job, training scholarships, on-the-job training & internships
- **Training:** Manufacturing, welding, machining, manufacturing & fast-track industrial certifications
- **Education:** GED programs
- **Financial:** Help with benefits & housing
- **Health:** Mental & physical health support, wraparound resources, lead testing, maternal/child health, substance abuse treatment & social inequity support
- **Re-Entry Support:** Support for people who were previously incarcerated

FREE



Nov. 11, 2023

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Barrett Station/
Riley Chambers
Community Center
808 ½ Magnolia Ave.
Crosby, Texas
Harris County Pct. 3

CRIMINAL
RECORD
SEALING
SIGN UP



Learn more: ccl.hctx.net/comcourt.htm



FRESCO COMIENZO FERIA DE RECURSOS

- **Sellado de antecedentes penales por delitos menores:** Se requiere preinscripción - ccl.hctx.net/comcourt.htm
- **Taller de las Viviendas Conosca Sus Derechos para propietarios e inquilinos:** Es preferible registrarse pero no es obligatorio - ccl.hctx.net/comcourt.htm
- **Distribución de Verduras Frescas:** Verduras, hierbas y recetas estilo Día de Acción de Gracias para las primeras 30 personas
- **Trabajos:** Asistencia en la búsqueda de empleo, preparación laboral y ayuda con los documentos necesarios para un nuevo trabajo, becas de capacitación, capacitación en el trabajo y puesto de interno
- **Capacitación:** Programas de soldadura, mecanizado y fabricación y certificaciones industriales de vía rápida
- **Educación:** Programas de Diploma de Equivalencia General
- **Financiero:** Ayuda con beneficios y vivienda
- **Salud:** Apoyo a la salud física y mental, recursos integrales, examen de plomo, salud maternal e infantil, tratamiento de abuso de sustancias y apoyo a la desigualdad social
- **Soporte de Reingreso:** Apoyo a personas que estuvieron previamente encarceladas

GRATIS



**11 de Noviembre
de 2023
10 a.m. a 12 p.m.**

Estación Barrett/
Centro Comunitario
de Riley Chambers
808 ½ Avenida Magnolia
Crosby, Texas
en el Precinto 3 del
Condado de Harris

**REGISTRO
DE SELLADO DE
ANTECEDENTES
PENALES**



Aprende más: ccl.hctx.net/comcourt.htm

