



For Immediate Release

Fresh Start record sealing program expanding next month to include eligible felonies thanks to new partnership with criminal district courts

Online pre-registration for criminal record sealing and housing rights workshop begins at noon on Jan. 22.

Jan. 19, 2024 — The Fresh Start misdemeanor criminal record sealing program is expanding to include eligible felony cases thanks to a new partnership with the criminal division of the Harris County State District Courts.

Texas state law allows certain felony charges that did not result in a conviction to be sealed from public view upon successful completion of mandated requirements and waiting periods.

The new partnership will formally launch at **Fresh Start on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Hester House in Fifth Ward.** Online pre-registration is required for record sealing and launches at noon on Jan. 22: ccl.hctx.net/comcourt.htm.

“We’re always looking for opportunities to better serve our community beyond the walls of the courtroom,” said Judge Te’iva Bell, who serves as the administrative judge for the criminal division of the Harris County State District Courts. “We’re excited for the opportunity to partner with our misdemeanor court colleagues and be part of Fresh Start.”

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

In addition to record sealing, the Know Your Rights Housing Workshop for Landlords and Tenants* will return for the February event. The workshop will offer 30-minute, come-and-go sessions covering topics such as contracts, expectations, landlord and tenant rights, and the eviction process. Pre-registration for the housing rights workshop is encouraged but not required: ccl.hctx.net/comcourt.htm.

“If you’ve only seen life from inside the four corners of your home or neighborhood, you may not know things can get better. You may not know how to go about getting there,” Harris County Criminal Courts at Law Presiding Judge Shannon Baldwin said. “Fresh Start gives you a road map. We’re thrilled to be able to continue expanding the program and help get more people back on track and headed in the right direction.”

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, and the Houston Apartment Association. The event is co-sponsored by Harris County Precinct One.

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

*The information provided during the Free Housing Rights 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

YOUR FRESH START BEGINS HERE

FREE



FREE CRIMINAL RECORD SEALING

Get back on track after experiences with the criminal justice system. Sign up to have your Harris County criminal history screened for record sealing eligibility:

- 200 screening spots available
- Limited to Harris County criminal records
- Pre-registration required:

www.ccl.hctx.net/comcourt.htm

FREE HOUSING RIGHTS WORKSHOP FOR LANDLORDS & TENANTS*

Learn about contracts, expectations, evictions & landlord/tenant rights:

- 30-minute sessions include a brief presentation & time for Q&A
- Pre-registration encouraged:

www.ccl.hctx.net/comcourt.htm

WHEN

Saturday, Feb. 10
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

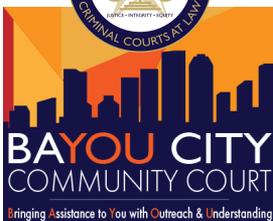
WHERE

Hester House
2020 Solo St.
Fifth Ward in Harris
County Precinct One

CRIMINAL
RECORD
SEALING
SIGN UP



Presented by:



*The information provided during the Free Housing Rights 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.

SU

FRESCO COMIENZO

EMPIEZA AQUÍ

GRATIS



SELLADO DE ANTECEDENTES PENALES GRATUITO

Vuelve a la normalidad después de experiencias con el sistema de justicia penal. Regístrese para que se revisen sus antecedentes penales del condado de Harris para determinar la elegibilidad para sellar registros:

- 200 espacios disponibles
- Limitado a los antecedentes penales del condado de Harris
- Se requiere preinscripción:

www.ccl.hctx.net/comcourt.htm

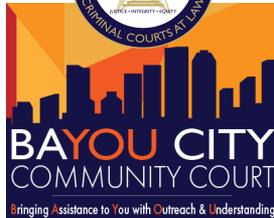
TALLER GRATUITO SOBRE DERECHOS DE VIVIENDA PARA PROPIETARIOS E INQUILINOS*

Obtenga más información sobre contratos, expectativas, desalojos y derechos de propietarios/inquilinos:

- Las sesiones de 30 minutos incluyen una breve presentación y tiempo para preguntas y respuestas.
- Se recomienda la preinscripción:

www.ccl.hctx.net/comcourt.htm

Presentado por:



HISPANIC LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION



CUANDO

Sábado 10 de
Febrero
10 a.m. a 12 p.m.

DÓNDE

Hester House
2020 Solo St.
Quinto Distrito en el
Precinto Uno del
Condado de Harris

REGISTRO
DE SELLADO DE
ANTECEDENTES
PENALES



*La información proporcionada durante el Taller gratuito sobre derechos de vivienda para propietarios e inquilinos no es asesoramiento legal. No es lo mismo información jurídica que asesoramiento jurídico. La información proporcionada durante el taller no sustituye ni reemplaza el asesoramiento o la representación de un abogado autorizado. Debe consultar a un abogado autorizado de su elección para asegurarse de que la información proporcionada durante el taller y su interpretación sean apropiadas para su situación particular. No debe ni está autorizado a confiar en la información proporcionada como fuente de asesoramiento legal.