



For Immediate Release

Fresh Start adds attendance commitment to record screening and sealing registration process

Online registration for record screening and sealing opens at noon on Monday, Oct. 26.

Oct. 23, 2026 — When registration for Fresh Start record screening and sealing opens on Monday, it will include a refined process designed to boost the number of participants who follow through and attend the event after signing up.

Attendance has always been required for eligible participants, but the update takes it a step further, requiring all registrants to check their calendars and commit to attending the event before signing up. The move aims to maximize capacity and decrease the number of slots that go unused when people don't show up.

The program is also changing the way it shares eligibility results. All who register should plan to attend the event — unless they receive an email saying they're not eligible and don't need to attend. Only participants who aren't eligible will be notified. Those who don't get an email should plan to attend the event to get their results and start the process.

The final Fresh Start of the year is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Harris County Jury Plaza, 1201 Congress St. in downtown Houston. Online registration for record screening and sealing opens at noon on Monday, Oct. 26, 2026: www.ccl.hctx.net/FreshStart.htm.

"We are continually refining our process to ensure we're helping as many people as we can with our limited resources," Harris County Criminal Courts at Law Presiding Judge Ashley Guice said. "It's tough to see slots go unused when so many people need these services. This adds one more check to make sure people are planning ahead."

Free screening is available to adults who have a Harris County criminal record, haven't registered for and attended Fresh Start in the past two years, and can commit to attending the event. Eligibility for record sealing is determined by state law. Eligible participants must meet income requirements to receive record sealing services.

Demand for the program continues to surge with thousands of people competing for just 300 slots. Registration often fills in seconds. Participants are encouraged to review the updated [Registration Tutorial](#) to prepare for the process.

Other resources available in November include:

- **ACCESS Harris County:** Apply for help with education, employment, food, healthcare, and transportation.
- **South Texas College of Law Legal Clinics:** Apply to determine eligibility for assistance with civil legal matters.
- **Consulate General of Mexico in Houston:** Support for Mexican citizens needing legal documents or services.
- **Harris County Office of Managed Assigned Counsel (MAC):** Learn about your legal rights and resources.
- **Harris County Tax Office:** Register to vote and learn about available property tax and auto resources.

Saturday, Nov. 14
10 a.m. to Noon

Harris County Jury Plaza
1201 Congress St.
in Downtown Houston

Registration required
for record sealing only:
ccl.hctx.net/FreshStart.htm

Launched in April 2022, Fresh Start is a second-chance program that helps people move forward after encounters with the criminal justice system by sealing their eligible criminal records and connecting them to key community resources. The program aims to help people move forward in the hopes of reducing future offenses and making communities safer.

For more information about the program or to register, go to www.ccl.hctx.net/FreshStart.htm.

Fresh Start is hosted by BAYOU City Community Court, the community outreach arm of the Harris County Criminal Courts at Law. It's offered in partnership with Harris County Public Defender's Office, Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department, Harris County State District Criminal Courts, and Harris County Constable Precinct One.

MEDIA CONTACT

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HARRIS COUNTY COURTS | WWW.CCL.HCTX.NET



Sign up & take the first steps toward a **FRESH START**



CRIMINAL RECORD SCREENING AND SEALING

A criminal record can create barriers to opportunity. Fresh Start can help you move forward by sealing your eligible records. Sign up for free screening to find out if you're eligible:

- Online registration is required: www.ccl.hctx.net/FreshStart.htm.
- Registration opens at noon on Monday, Oct. 26, 2026.
- Demand is high, and slots fill fast, sometimes within seconds.
- Eligible participants **must** attend.

HELP WITH JOBS, HEALTH CARE & BASIC NEEDS

Meet with ACCESS Harris County and apply for help with:

- Education & Jobs
- Transportation
- Primary Care Physicians
- Food Security
- Health Insurance
- Counseling & Peer Support

HELP WITH CIVIL LEGAL MATTERS

Meet with South Texas College of Law Legal Clinics, and sign up to determine if you're eligible for their assistance with civil matters.

CONSULAR SUPPORT FOR MEXICAN CITIZENS

Meet with Houston's Consulate General of Mexico and learn about the legal services and legal documents available to Mexican citizens.

LEGAL RIGHTS AND RESOURCES

Meet with the Harris County Office of Managed Assigned Counsel to learn about your rights and legal resources.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Meet with the Harris County Tax Office to register to vote, learn how to become a volunteer deputy registrar, and get property tax and auto information.

WHEN

Saturday, Nov. 14
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

WHERE

Harris County
Jury Plaza
1201 Congress St.
in Downtown
Houston

SCAN TO LEARN MORE





Regístrese y dé los primeros pasos hacia un **FRESCO COMIENZO**



REVISIÓN Y SELLADO DE ANTECEDENTES PENALES

Los antecedentes penales pueden crear barreras que limitan las oportunidades. Fresco Comienzo puede ayudarle a seguir adelante mediante el sellado de sus antecedentes, siempre que estos cumplan con los requisitos. Inscribese para una revisión gratuita y determine si usted con los requisitos necesarias:

- Es obligatorio registrarse en línea: www.ccl.hctx.net/FreshStart.htm.
- El registro se abre al mediodía del lunes 26 de octubre de 2026.
- El cupo es limitado y las plazas se agotan con gran rapidez.
- Los participantes elegibles **deben** asistir.

AYUDA CON EL EMPLEO, LA ATENCIÓN MÉDICA Y LAS NECESIDADES BÁSICAS

Reúnanse con ACCESS Harris County y solicite ayuda con:

- Educación y empleo
- Seguro médico
- Seguridad alimentaria
- Médicos de atención primaria
- Transporte
- Asesoramiento y apoyo entre compañeros

AYUDA CON ASUNTOS LEGALES CIVILES

Reúnanse con las clínicas jurídicas del South Texas College of Law e inscribete para determinar si reúne con los requisitos para recibir su ayuda en asuntos civiles.

DERECHOS Y RECURSOS LEGALES

Reúnanse con la Oficina de Abogados Asignados del Condado de Harris para informarse sobre sus derechos y los recursos legales a su disposición.

APOYO CONSULAR PARA CIUDADANOS MEXICANOS

Reúnanse con el Consulado General de México en Houston e infórmese sobre los servicios y documentos legales disponibles para los ciudadanos mexicanos.

REGISTRO DE VOTANTES

Reúnanse con la Oficina de Impuestos del Condado de Harris para registrarse para votar, aprender cómo convertirse en un registrador adjunto voluntario y obtener información sobre impuestos a la propiedad y recursos relacionados con vehículos.

CUÁNDO

Sábado, 14 de
noviembre
10 a. m. a 12 p. m.

DÓNDE

Plaza del Jurado del
Condado
de Harris
1201 Congress St.
en el centro de
Houston

ESCANEAR

PARA OBTENER MÁS
INFORMACIÓN

