

STATUS OF HARRIS COUNTY EVICTION TRIALS

(As of March 16, 2020)

(Stay Tuned- Things change quickly!)

COURT	STATUS
Supreme Court of Texas	By First Emergency Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster dated March 13, 2020, the Supreme Court ruled that all courts in Texas may, without a participant’s consent; (a) modify or suspend any deadlines and procedures for a stated period ending no later than 30 days after the Governor’s state of disaster has been lifted; (b) allow or require anyone involved in a proceeding to participate remotely, such as by teleconferencing, videoconferencing, or other means; (c) consider as evidence, sworn statements made out of court or sworn testimony given remotely, out of court, such as by teleconferencing, videoconferencing, or other means; (d) conduct any proceedings away from the court’s usual location, but in the county of venue, and only with reasonable notice and access to the participants and the public; (e) require every participant in a proceeding to alert the court if the participant has, or knows of another participant who has, COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms, or a fever, cough or sneezing; and (f) take any other reasonable action to avoid exposing court proceedings to the threat of COVID-19. Additionally, all courts in Texas may extend the statute of limitations in any civil case for a period ending no later than 30 days after the Governor’s state of disaster has been lifted. The Order is effective as of March 13, 2020 and expires May 8, 2020 unless extended by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
Harris County Civil Courts at Law	If the County Judge of Harris County announces that county buildings will be closed, the County Civil Courts at Law will remain closed until the County Judge announces the reopening of the buildings. Essential court matters will be re-scheduled or held at approved alternate locations. Check with your specific Court for more information on time and location. If HISD cancels classes, then all non-essential matters in the County Civil Courts at Law will be cancelled on the days classes are cancelled. Should the HISD closure lasts more than 7 days, the Courts will communicate an alternate schedule on its website at http://ccl.hctx.net/civil . An individual court may opt out of this portion of the protocol by providing the court administrator with written notice of the court’s decision. The court administrator will post court closures and schedules on http://ccl.hctx.net/civil . Essential court matters will go forward as scheduled unless the parties receive notice from the assigned individual court. For the purposes of these procedures, the term “essential court matters” does not include evictions.
JP Precinct 1, Place 1	All criminal and civil trials in March are cancelled, <i>with the exception</i> of evictions and other essential court proceedings. The court will reassess the status of April cases in the coming weeks. The court remains open to take filings. Status could change at any

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	time. If you have COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms, contact the court before appearing. Court number (713) 274-0695.
JP Precinct 1, Place 2	The court has stopped accepting paper pleadings in person and by mail. Effective March 16, 2020, filings will be accepted via e-file at https://efile.txcourts.gov , fax or email.
JP Precinct 2, Place 1	All jury dockets for the months of March and April have been cancelled. Contact the Court with any questions (713) 274-0850.
JP Precinct 2, Place 2	No COVID-19 information available on the Court's website
JP Precinct 3, Place 1	All dockets <i>with the exception</i> of evictions, tow and seizure hearings are cancelled for the remainder of March and April, 2020. The Court will re-evaluate circumstances towards the end of April 2020.
JP Precinct 3, Place 2	As of March 16, 2020 the court will no longer accept any paper filings in person. All pleadings must be sent by electronic-filing, emailing, or faxing. All jury duty, truancy, and driver's license hearings have been cancelled for the month of March.
JP Precinct 4, Place 1	All jury duty is cancelled for the month of March.
JP Precinct 4, Place 2	All jury duty is cancelled for the month of March. Any civil cases set for March 17, 2020 will be heard at the same time on March 24, 2020. Court dockets, trials and jury trials for the week of March 16-20, 2020 are being rescheduled. You will be notified by mail with a new court date.
JP Precinct 5, Place 1	All dockets will continue as scheduled or may be rescheduled by the court. Jury duty is cancelled for the month of March. If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or have flu-like symptoms, a fever, or coughing or sneezing, you are encouraged to contact the court at least one business day before appearing. The court will make reasonable accommodations and reschedule appearances and hearings as needed.
JP Precinct 5, Place 2	No information appears on the Court's website.
JP Precinct 6, Place 1	All jury trials have been cancelled for the remainder of March 2020. The court will re-evaluate circumstances towards the end of March 2020, so all parties should be on the lookout for notices sent by the Court.
JP Precinct 6, Place 2	No information appears on the Court's website.
JP Precinct 7, Place 1	All jury services have been cancelled through April 9, 2020 however, <i>all eviction and truancy dockets will be held as scheduled</i> . All cases from the cancelled dockets will be reset by the court and all parties will be notified of each new court day by mail. All civil filings and certain criminal files can be submitted at https://e-file.txcourts.gov . The court will re-evaluate the circumstances daily and will keep all updated on its website.
JP Precinct 7, Place 2	All jury trials and criminal appearance dockets are cancelled for the remainder of March 2020. The court will re-evaluate circumstances towards the end of March. All parties should be on the lookout for notices sent by the court.

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JP Precinct 8, Place 1	All court dockets, trials and jury trials for the week of March 16-20, 2020 are suspended. Parties will be notified by mail when their cases are reset. Feel free to contact the court directly through email, the website, or by telephone. The court will be open to answer questions and accept filings, payments, and continue with all court processing. The situation will be addressed on a weekly basis, and updates will be posted to its website.
JP Precinct 8, Place 2	No information is on the Courts' website.