

MISSION

“The mission of the Municipal Courts Department is to provide a forum for citizens to have their matters heard in a fair, efficient, convenient, and timely manner.”

ATTENDING COURT:

The following information will help you understand court protocol and processes for juveniles, parents, and guardians in order to quickly resolve your court business with Municipal Courts.

You are a juvenile under State Law if you are under the age of 17. By law, you **MUST** be accompanied to court by a parent/guardian. You may also bring an attorney. In the left hand corner of your citation is an arraignment date (court appearance date).

- Juvenile Dockets are held in Municipal Court 12 (1400 Lubbock).
- *Arraignment Dockets are held Monday-Thursday, 4:00pm - 10:00pm.
- Trial Dockets are Monday - Friday at 6:00pm.
- If you fail to appear, an additional charge of Failure to Appear (FTA) may be filed and an arrest warrant issued. Proper attire is required (no shorts, tank tops, halters, caps/hats).
- All electronic devices must be off or on vibrate.

* Arraignment Dockets are first appearance settings where you are scheduled to offer your plea. You options are to enter Guilty, Not Guilty, or Nolo Contendere (no contest).

Hours of Operation

Herbert W. Gee Courthouse

1400 Lubbock - 713.247.5479
Monday - Friday 7 am - 10 pm
Saturday 8 am - 10 pm

North Command Station*

9455 West Montgomery - 281.405.5319
Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm

Clear Lake Sub-Station Annex Court*

2855 Bay Area Boulevard - 281.283.4946 | 281.283.4947
Thursdays 8 am - 5 pm

Kingwood Annex Court*

3915 Rustic Woods - 281.361.6574
Wednesdays 8 am - 7 pm

Southeast Command Station*

(Courts 13 and 14 Annex Court)

8300 Mykawa Road - 713.731.5292 (ct. 13) | 713.731.5155 (ct. 14)
Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm

West Command Station*

(Court 18 and Annex Court)

3203 South Dairy Ashford - 281.584.4889
Monday - Friday 8 am - 9 pm

**Note: Courtrooms closed daily from 12 noon - 1 pm.*

For the most up-to-date information on hours and locations, please visit our web site: www.houstontx.gov/courts

You can also follow us:



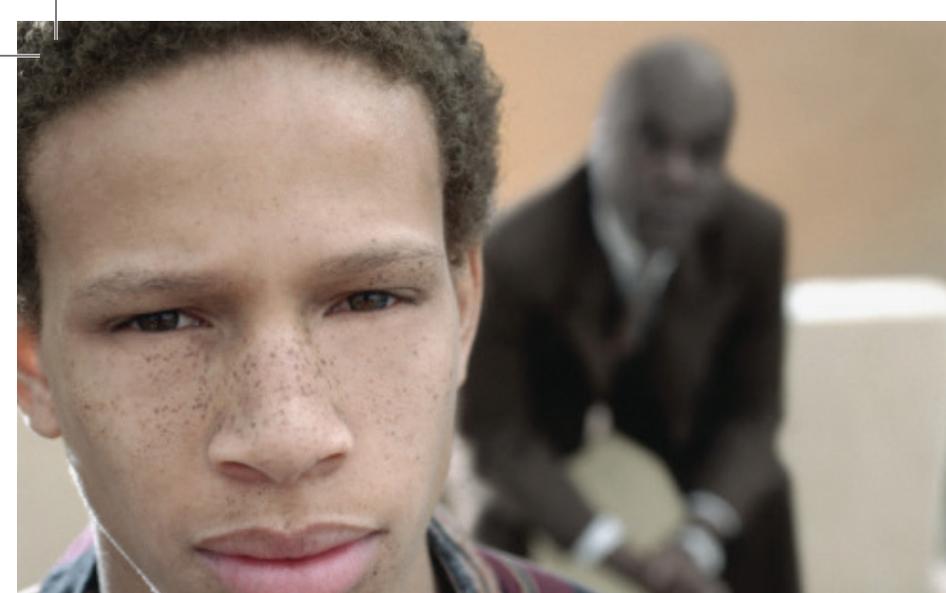
Houston Municipal Court:
Committed to Justice, Equality and Service
www.houstontx.gov/courts

Houston **MUNICIPAL** Courts
Committed to Justice, Equality and Service



JUVENILE
INFORMATION

JUVENILE INFORMATION



Pleading “Not Guilty”, “Guilty”, or “No Contest”:

If you plead “Not Guilty,” you must decide if you want a trial by Judge or by Jury. You will be given a reset trial date. If you plead “Guilty” or “No Contest,” the Judge will find you guilty and assess a fine. Be prepared to pay the fine at the time you are found guilty, or request Deferred Payment if you need time to pay.

Requesting Deferred Disposition (Probation):

If you are granted Deferred Disposition by the Court, be prepared to pay the court costs, which vary depending on the offense. The Judge will set the terms/conditions of the probation period and reset your case. If you successfully complete the probation, your case will be dismissed and no conviction will be entered on your record.

Community Service Order:

If you enter a plea of “Guilty” or “No Contest,” and request to perform community service hours in place of paying a fine, it may involve projects such as cleaning up city parks, buildings, graffiti removal, participation in workshops, or other assignments. The number of community service hours depends on the fine and the violation.

Curfew Ordinance:

In October 1991, the Houston City Council passed a Juvenile Curfew Ordinance (Chapter 28, Art. V. Sections 28-171 - 28-200). This Ordinance was modified in May 2007. The Ordinance outlines the curfew hours for juveniles as follows:

- Between the hours of 11:00pm and 6:00am the following day, Sunday through Thursday.
- Between the hours of 12:00am (midnight) and 6:00am, Saturday and Sunday.
- Between the hours of 9:00am and 2:30pm, Monday through Friday.

Minor In Possession (MIP):

Changes to the alcohol and tobacco laws implemented by the 80th Legislature affect how minors are sentenced/sanctioned for alcohol/tobacco related offenses. Sanctions require convicted minors to attend awareness programs. The minor MUST appear in court with a parent/guardian.

Alcohol:

The term “minor” in alcohol related offense is an individual under the age of 21, and is a Class C Misdemeanor (1st/2nd offense), and a Class “B” Misdemeanor (3rd offense). Offense is subject to a fine ranging from \$250-\$2,000; confinement in jail up to 180 days; both fine and confinement; suspension/denial of driver’s license for a period up to six months. A minor must attend an alcohol awareness program on the first conviction, and may be required to in subsequent offenses.

A minor commits an offense if he/she:

- Purchases alcohol.
- Attempts to purchase alcohol.
- Possesses alcohol.
- Misrepresents age to acquire alcohol.
- Consumes alcohol.
- Is publicly intoxicated.

Tobacco Products:

The term “minor” in tobacco related offenses is an individual under the age of 21. A minor commits an offense if he/she:

- Possesses purchases, consumes or accepts cigarettes or tobacco products.
- Displays false proof of age to acquire cigarette or tobacco products.

Minors charged in tobacco-related offenses, must attend an approved tobacco awareness program or perform 8-12 hours of tobacco-related community service. The case will be dismissed once the course is completed and the defendant has no previous tobacco convictions. Failure to complete requirements will result in the suspension/denial of driver’s license for a period up to six months, and a fine.

View all Minor in Possession guidelines at:

<http://www.houstontx.gov/courts/JuvenileInformation.html>

Juvenile Case Manager Program:

The goal of the Juvenile Case Manager Program (JCMP) is to assist the Municipal Courts Department in administering the courts’ juvenile dockets and reduce juvenile referrals into the justice system through effective, preventative case management, and utilization of intervention procedures at the school campus level. The JCMP is also a diversionary program intended to resolve truancy and issues related to truant behavior by focusing on increasing school attendance.

For more information on Juveniles & the JCMP, visit:

<http://www.houstontx.gov/courts/JuvenileInformation.html>