



News Release

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Release Date: 06/03/2011

Municipal Courts Extends Amnesty Program

Citizens Urged to Pay Court Orders While Cost Savings Still Available

Date: June 3, 2011

From: Municipal Courts Department

Subject: Municipal Courts Extends Amesty Program

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

HOUSTON, Texas –The City of Houston Municipal Courts' 2011 Amnesty program has been extended for an additional week and will not end until 11:59 p.m., Saturday, June 11, 2011. Court officials are encouraging anyone who has delinquent court matters to take advantage of this additional time to resolve them and avoid arrest.

"We are offering additional time for citizens to participate in this cost-saving program so that they can have the peace of mind to go about their day-to-day affairs without the fear of being arrested," stated Director and Presiding Judge, Barbara E. Hartle. "We are available for anyone who has questions; just call us at 3-1-1 if we can be of assistance," said Judge Hartle.

The Amnesty Program was initially announced at a news briefing held Friday, May 20, 2011, by representatives from the Houston Police Department, Houston Municipal Court and Harris County Precinct 1.

"Our message is simple," said HPD Captain Jonathan Zera. "Anyone with overdue citations needs to take care of them now, before the amnesty period ends. Afterwards, HPD will have officers serving warrants throughout the city. Please avoid the potential embarrassment of being arrested in front of co-workers, friends, or family and take advantage of this program while it is offered," he added.

Harris County Justice Courts and Harris County Constables will also continue their amnesty period through Friday, June 10, 2011. Citizens are urged to take advantage of this extended amnesty by going to the Harris County Justice Courts to take care of outstanding cases.

For more information about City of Houston warrants or citations, visit the website at www.houstontx.gov/courts or contact City's Helpline at 3-1-1 or 713-837-0311 if outside the City of Houston. For information about Harris County warrants and amnesty program, visit www.jp.hctx.net.

2011 Amnesty Program FAQ's

Why are you doing this?

To close cases for which all other means of resolution have been unsuccessful.

What kinds of cases are eligible for Amnesty rates?

Most delinquent traffic, non-traffic and parking citations that were delinquent on or before February 28, 2011 will be eligible for Amnesty discounts. Previously adjudicated cases, capias pro fine cases and Red Light Camera citations are not eligible for Amnesty. Citizens may visit the Municipal Courts website or call 3-1-1 to find out if they have eligible Amnesty cases.

What do I do if I have a parking citation?

To receive Amnesty rates, parking citations must be paid in person at a Parking Management office or Municipal Court facility. Parking citations that were delinquent on or before January 13, 2011 are eligible for Amnesty rates.

How can I find out if I have warrants?

Dial Houston's Helpline at 3-1-1, visit the website at www.houstontx.gov/courts or visit any City of Houston Municipal Court location (see chart below).

What are my options if I find out I do have warrants?

You may pay the fines at the applicable Amnesty rates. You may also be able to obtain a bond and have your case(s) reset for a new court date. You always have the option to seek legal advice from an attorney.

If I come to court to pay, will I be arrested?

No, it is better to come in voluntarily to resolve cases.

If I want to pay for my delinquent cases/warrants, what are my payment options?

Payment options are as follows:

- ONLINE – www.texasonline.state.tx.us
- BY PHONE – Call 713.837.0311 or 3-1-1 (6am- 8pm, Monday thru Friday)
- BY MAIL - Municipal Courts, AMNESTY PROGRAM, P.O. Box 4996, Houston, TX 77210-4996
- WESTERN UNION (Ticket Texas)
- IN PERSON – at any of the six court locations listed:

COURT LOCATIONS		
MAIN LOCATION	HOURS	PHONE
Herbert W. Gee Municipal Courthouse 1400 Lubbock Houston, TX 77002	Monday - Saturday 7am to 10pm	713.247.5479
ANNEX LOCATIONS	HOURS	PHONE

Acres Homes/North Command Station 9455 West Montgomery Houston, TX 77088	Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm	281.405.5319
Clear Lake Sub-Station 2855 Bay Area Boulevard Houston, TX 77058	Thursday 8am to 5pm	281.283.4946 281.283.4947
Kingwood (Municipal Court Annex) 3915 Rustic Woods Kingwood, Texas 77339-5203	Wednesday 8am to 7pm	281.361.6574
* Southeast Command Station (Courts 13 & 14) 8300 Mykawa Houston, TX 77048	Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm	713.731.5155 713.731.5156
* Westside Command Station (Court 18) 3203 South Dairy Ashford Houston, TX 77082-2320	Monday - Friday 8 am to 9pm	281.584.4889
NOTE: All courtrooms are closed Noon to 1 P.M.		

What forms of payment do you accept?

We accept cash, checks, money orders, and American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa.

After I pay, how long will it take for the information to be removed from DPS records?

The Department of Public Safety will clear holds on driver's licenses within 5 to 7 business days.

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