

## County Court at Law 1

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**NINTH AMENDED NOTICE REGARDING COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 1 COURT PROCEDURES DURING THE CORONAVIRUS  
COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

Last Updated: June 30, 2020

In compliance with the COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Fort Bend County Judiciary, which was approved by the Judge Susan Brown, the Presiding Judge over the Eleventh Administrative Judicial Region on May 26, 2020, and the 18<sup>th</sup> Emergency Order issued by the Texas Supreme Court, in-person hearings will continue for criminal plea/non-issue dockets, arraignment dockets and any other docket County Court at Law No. 1 (the "Court") designates as an in-person hearing. Jury trials will not resume until after September 1, 2020, or later. Guidance from the Office of Court Administration will be forthcoming on the procedure to resume jury trials. All other hearings (i.e. probate & guardianships, civil, juvenile and criminal motions) will continue to utilize Zoom, until further notice. You will find the Court's policy and procedures for video conferencing under the Documents & Form tab on the Court's website or you may follow the link: <https://www.fortbendcountytx.gov/government/departments-a-d/county-courts-at-law/county-court-at-law-1/forms>

All resets on criminal plea/non-issue cases will be done electronically with the Court Coordinator, Regina Green. The electronic reset ensures compliance with the COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Fort Bend County Judiciary, and reduces the number of people within the courthouse. In-person dockets shall be for pleas or oral arguments only, **NOT** to reset a case. The Court encourages all business be conducted remotely, if possible. If you intend to plea your client to the alleged charges, you must submit all electronic plea paperwork to the Court the Friday before your scheduled docket. Failure to submit the paperwork will result in your hearing being rescheduled.

The Court has adopted the following procedure for electronic resets:

1. the attorney of record will email the Court Coordinator to receive a new date and an electronic reset form to be signed by the attorney of record on behalf of their client. It is the attorney's responsibility to notify his/her client of the new court date, and ensure their appearance; or
2. unrepresented defendants shall email the Court Coordinator at [regina.green@fortbendcountytx.gov](mailto:regina.green@fortbendcountytx.gov) to receive an electronic reset.

You may not meet in-person with the Court Coordinator or any court staff. This reset policy does not apply to the Court's juvenile dockets, civil dockets or probate dockets.

If you wish to view a live stream of these hearings, you may subscribe to the County Court at Law No. 1's YouTube channel titled: Fort Bend County Court at Law No. 1, channel ID UCH78cuOArJw7qkjtun3p1VQ or you may follow the link: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH78cuOArJw7qkjtun3p1VQ?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH78cuOArJw7qkjtun3p1VQ?view_as=subscriber). Per guidance from the Office of Court Administration, this channel adheres to the Open Courts provision of the Texas Constitution.

We ask that the public be patient and understanding for any inconvenience these changes may cause. The Court is following all governing guidance. These measures are in place for the health and safety of the public and court personnel.

Continue to look to the Court's website for further details and information.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Regina G. Green, Court Coordinator, at (832) 471-2822 or via email at [regina.green@fortbendcountytexas.gov](mailto:regina.green@fortbendcountytexas.gov), and Anita Ayala, Probate Auditor, at (281) 633-7413 or via email at [anita.ayala@fortbendcountytexas.gov](mailto:anita.ayala@fortbendcountytexas.gov).

#### **NOTICE OF ACCOMMODATIONS FOR AT-RISK INDIVIDUALS**

DUE TO COVID-19 MANY OF YOU ARE PART OF THE VULNERABLE POPULATION. INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE OVER 65 AND INDIVIDUALS WITH SERIOUS UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITIONS, SUCH AS HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE, OBESITY, ASTHMA, AND THOSE WHOSE IMMUNE SYSTEMS ARE COMPROMISED SUCH AS BY CHEMOTHERAPY FOR CANCER OR OTHER CONDITIONS REQUIRING SUCH THERAPY ARE CONSIDERED TO BE VULNERABLE POPULATIONS. IF YOU ARE PART OF THIS VULNERABLE POPULATION PLEASE CONTACT THE COURT AT [regina.green@fortbendcountytexas.gov](mailto:regina.green@fortbendcountytexas.gov) or (281) 633-7415 TO ADVISE THE COURT REGARDING YOUR NEED FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS AND A SPECIALIZED DOCKET TO ENSURE YOUR CONTINUED SAFETY.

## Christopher G. Morales, Judge

**Christopher Morales** was elected as Judge of County Court at Law No. 1, in 2014. As Judge of County Court at Law No. 1, he manages a multitude of cases that impact the daily life of every citizen in Fort Bend County. Judge Morales oversees such matters as probate and guardianship cases, juvenile cases, civil litigation cases up to \$200,000, condemnation proceedings, civil mental health commitments, and criminal misdemeanor cases. Most importantly, Judge Morales also oversees Fort Bend County's only misdemeanor Criminal Mental Health Court, a program designed to reduce recidivism rates among defendants with mental illness.



### **Office Address**

Fort Bend County Justice Center  
1422 Eugene Heimann Circle, Courtroom 2C  
Richmond, TX. 77469

### **Mailing Address**

County Court at Law No.1  
301 Jackson Street  
Richmond, TX. 77469

**Telephone:** 281-633-7415

**Fax:** 832 471-1861

**Hours**

Monday - Friday

8:00 AM - Noon; 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM