

# GEORGE E. RISNER

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 2, PLACE 2  
101 South Richey, Suite B, Pasadena, TX 77506 (713) 274-6100

## EMERGENCY PROTOCOL IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 August 24, 2020

Until further Order of the Texas Supreme Court or other appropriate officials, and until additional health and prevention information becomes available, Justice Court Precinct 2 Place 2 will provide limited services to the citizens of Precinct 2 and Harris County using recommended and appropriate precautions and preventative measures to mitigate the risk of spreading infection from the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

**Court Hours.** Court personnel are available to answer inquiries and perform other essential duties. The Court's hours are 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

**Filings and payments will not be accepted at the Court's offices or by mail.** All pleadings, motions, or other papers must be filed by using [EFILETEXAS.gov](http://EFILETEXAS.gov), or filing by fax, 713-437-4342 (Civil), 713-437-4344 (Criminal) or by email, [MYJP22@jp.hctx.net](mailto:MYJP22@jp.hctx.net).

Payments in criminal cases may be made through the Justice Court Precinct 2 Place 2 Website (Online Services) at: [www.jp.hctx.net/2-2](http://www.jp.hctx.net/2-2).

Criminal and civil case records may be viewed and accessed through the Justice Courts' Odyssey Portal, at: <https://odysseyportal.harriscountytexas.gov/OdysseyPortalJP>.

Every person appearing in Court or at the Court's offices is required to alert the Court in advance if the person has, or knows of another participant who has COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms, or who has been in close contact with a person who is confirmed to have COVID-19. Symptoms include fever, chills, cough, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.

- All persons are required to wear face masks and maintain recommended distancing. All persons may be required to answer certain health related questions and to submit to temperature screening.
- Dockets are being scheduled to comply with courtroom occupancy and social distancing requirements. To avoid exposure, persons attending Court are requested to bring only witnesses.
- All documents to be offered as evidence for in-person hearings must be electronically filed at least 3 business days prior to the scheduled hearing and provided to all other parties. If documents are brought to Court on the date of the hearing, copies must be available for the Court and each party.

Parties may request a civil or criminal case to be heard remotely, by telephone, Zoom, or other electronic means. The request must be made at least 3 business days prior to the scheduled hearing, in writing. The Court will furnish a date and instructions for the proceeding.

**Evictions.** Eviction cases are generally held in person.

**Between March 27, 2020 and through July 24, 2020, Landlords of federally assisted housing programs or residential property having a federally backed mortgage, were prohibited from making any filing to recover possession of a covered dwelling from a tenant for nonpayment of rent.** *For more information please refer to Sections 4022, 4023, and 4024 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, H. R. 748, 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, Public Law 116-136, signed by the President on March 27, 2020.*

For eviction proceedings filed from March 27, 2020 through September 30, 2020, a sworn petition or further pleading containing "a description of the facts and grounds for eviction" must state whether or not (i) the premises is a "covered dwelling" subject to Section 4024 of the CARES Act; (ii) the plaintiff is a "multifamily borrower" under forbearance subject to Section 4023 of the CARES Act, and (iii) the plaintiff has provided the defendant with 30 days' notice to vacate under Section 4024(c) and 4023(e) of the CARES Act. A form for this verification is available on the Justice Courts' website.

**Jury Trials.** Jury service is suspended until October 1, 2020, subject to re-evaluation at that time.