



# CITY OF HOUSTON

## Municipal Courts Department

Annise D. Parker

Mayor

Barbara E. Hartle  
Director and Presiding Judge

P.O. Box 1562  
Houston, Texas 77251-1562  
Telephone – Dial 311  
[www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov)

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**Contact:**

Gwendolyn Goins, Public Information Officer  
(713) 247-4114

### **Municipal Courts Extends Amnesty Program Citizens Urged to Pay Court Orders While Cost Savings Still Available**

HOUSTON, Texas – The City of Houston Municipal Courts' 2013 Amnesty program has been extended for an additional week and will not end until 11:59 p.m., Saturday, February 16, 2013. Court officials are encouraging anyone who has delinquent court matters to take advantage of this additional time to resolve them at a discounted rate.

*"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 or visit us online for assistance,"* said Judge Hartle.

The Amnesty Program was initially announced at a news briefing held Tuesday, January 22, 2013. Most delinquent traffic and non-traffic citations that were delinquent on or before October 21, 2012 are eligible for Amnesty discounts. Previously adjudicated cases, capias pro fine cases, parking and Red Light Camera citations are not eligible for Amnesty.

Court officials urge people to take advantage of this program so they won't be subject to arrest during any upcoming warrant sweeps when cheaper amnesty rates will no longer be available.

For more information about City of Houston warrants or citations, visit the website at [www.houstontx.gov/courts](http://www.houstontx.gov/courts) or contact City's Helpline at 3-1-1 or 713-837-0311 if outside the City of Houston.

## **2013 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 and non-traffic citations that were delinquent on or before October 21, 2012 will be eligible for Amnesty discounts. Previously adjudicated cases, capias pro fine cases, parking citations 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 delinquent parking citation?**

Parking citations are not 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](http://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?**

It is not the policy of Houston Municipal Courts to arrest people who visit our courthouse to inquire about their delinquent cases. We encourage everyone to come in voluntarily to resolve their cases.

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

Payment options are as follows:

- ONLINE – [www.texas.gov/COHTicketPay](http://www.texas.gov/COHTicketPay) (*Eligible cases on this site have been adjusted to display Amnesty rates. Cases that have a balance of "00.00" cannot be selected for payment; however, these cases will be dismissed once the underlying case is paid in full.*)
- BY PHONE – Call 713.837.0311 or 3-1-1 (8am- 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
<b>Herbert W. Gee Municipal Courthouse</b> <a href="#">1400 Lubbock</a> Houston, TX 77002	Monday - Saturday 7am to 10pm	713.247.5479
ANNEX LOCATIONS	HOURS	PHONE
<b>Acres Homes/North Command Station</b> <a href="#">9455 West Montgomery</a> Houston, TX 77088	Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm	281.405.5319
<b>Clear Lake Sub-Station</b> <a href="#">2855 Bay Area Boulevard</a> Houston, TX 77058	Thursday 8am to 5pm	281.283.4946 281.283.4947
<b>Kingwood (Municipal Court Annex)</b> <a href="#">3915 Rustic Woods</a> Kingwood, Texas 77339-5203	Wednesday 8am to 7pm	281.361.6574
<b>* Southeast Command Station</b> (Courts 13 & 14) <a href="#">8300 Mykawa</a> Houston, TX 77048	Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm	713.731.5155 713.731.5156
<b>* Westside Command Station</b> (Court 18) <a href="#">3203 South Dairy Ashford</a> Houston, TX 77082-2320	Monday - Friday 8 am to 9pm	281.584.4889
<b>NOTE: All courtrooms are closed Noon to 1 P.M.</b>		

### 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.