

Bridging the legal gap between needs and solutions.



Houston Volunteer Lawyers is the pro bono legal aid arm of the Houston Bar Association

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Evictions, Covid-19, and the CARES Act

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The federal government passed the CARES Act in March to help people affected by Covid-19. The CARES Act provides some protections for renters and tenants. Please see the documents below for more information:

- Pro Se Guide – You can read this for information about how to represent yourself and how to find out how the CARES Act may help you.
- Search to see if your property is covered by the CARES Act:
 - TRLA map tool,
 - National Low Income Housing Coalition: <https://nlihc.org/federal-moratoriums>,
 - Freddie Mac: <https://myhome.freddiemac.com/renting/lookup.html>, and
 - Fannie Mae: <https://www.knowyouroptions.com/rentersresourcefinder>.
- Sample Script – When you have your trial, whether it is in person, by phone, or by Zoom, you can ask these questions to the landlord when it is your turn to talk.
- Sample settlement agreements – If you and your landlord reach an agreement for a repayment plan or to terminate the lease early, you can use these forms to document the agreement.
- Motion for Continuance – You can use these forms if you are diagnosed with Covid-19 and need a new trial date. You should first try calling to court and telling them, if they want a formal document, then you can use these forms.
- Motion to Dismiss, Notice of Hearing, and Order – You can use these forms to request that the court dismiss the eviction if you know that your property is covered by the CARES Act.
- Motion for a Virtual Trial – You should be able to call the court to request a trial over the phone or a virtual trial using Zoom software. If the court tells you have to submit something in writing, you should be able to email the court. If the court requires a motion, then you can use this form.
- Motion for Mediation – If you want the court to order your case to mediation to try to work

out an agreement with your landlord, you can use this form. Please note that the court does not have to grant this motion.

- Statement of Inability to Afford Payment of Court Costs – If you lose your eviction case in JP court, you can use this document to appeal the case to County Court at Law

To apply for services, click [here](#). For legal information, call 713-228-0734.

-  [Motion for Mediation, Notice of Submission, and Order - Pro Se](#)
-  [Motion to Dismiss, Notice of Hearing, and Order Pro Se](#)
-  [Simple sample settlement agreements Pro Se](#)
-  [Motion for Virtual Trial with Reset, Notice of Hearing, and Order - Pro Se](#)
-  [Sample Script_Pro Se.pdf](#)
-  [Eviction Pro Se Guide](#)
-  [Motion for Continuance and Request for Virtual Trial_Pro Se.pdf](#)
-  [Affidavit of Inability to Pay Court costs](#)

Links:

[Evictions](#)

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<http://www.makejusticehappen.org/Evictions>

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