



Judge Jim Hansen
Presiding Judge
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TEXAS EVICTION DIVERSION PROGRAM

Governor Greg Abbott on September 25th announced the allocation of over \$171 million in funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which will primarily be used for targeted rental assistance for Texans at risk of becoming homeless due to eviction. For more information, [click here](#).

The Supreme Court issued an Emergency Order later on the 25th that outlines some of the provisions and procedures. This order, in conjunction with an order from Gov. Abbott, creates the Texas Eviction Diversion Program, which is designed to curb a surge of COVID-related evictions, assist vulnerable tenants, and provide an alternative to eviction for landlords. ***The program begins on Oct. 12 for certain pilot counties, and Nov. 9 statewide.***

Eligibility for the program will be determined by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA).

The judge must discuss the program with parties at an eviction trial and, if they wish to participate, places the case on a 60-day hold and makes all documents in the case confidential. The program requires additional language for petitions and citations in eviction cases. TJCTC has developed sample citation and petition forms, see the section in the Residential Eviction FAQ on the Diversion Program for full information and to download the forms. and updated the plaintiff's affidavit to include the required certification that the landlord has reviewed the program website (<https://www.txcourts.gov/programs-services/eviction-diversion-program/>).

