

March 12, 2009

Dear Harris County Attorneys:

I am sending this e-mail to inform you about a new pilot program being implemented in Harris County Probate Court No. 2. Essentially, you will be able to probate wills and obtain letters without coming downtown - I will be bringing the hearings to you.

On February 24, 2009, the Harris County Commissioners' Court passed a resolution at my request, naming the following four Justice of the Peace courtrooms as auxiliary county seats for the purpose of holding non-jury probate court hearings, pursuant to Local Government Code ' 292.029(b):

Judge Holly Williamson, Precinct 8, Place 1	First Thursday, 9:00 am
7330 Spencer Highway, Pasadena, Texas 77505-1824	
Judge Mike Parrott, Precinct 3, Place 1,	First Thursday, 10:30 am
14350 Wallisville Road, Houston, Texas 77049-4149	
Judge Bill Yeoman, Precinct 5, Place 2	Second Thursday, 11:00 am
16715 Clay Road, Houston, Texas 77084-4294	
Judge Tom Lawrence, Precinct 4, Place 2	Second Thursday, 1:30 pm
7900 Will Clayton Parkway, Humble, Texas 77338-5849	

The way this project will work is as follows:

1. When you call Probate Court No. 2 to set a probate hearing, you will be asked if you wish to have it heard in a JP courtroom. If you say yes, you will be given the date of the next hearing in that JP courtroom in accordance with the above schedule.
2. If your case is pending in one of the other three probate courts, call that court and request to have your case transferred to Probate Court No. 2. **After the case is transferred**, call Probate Court No. 2 and request a JP hearing.
3. Before you set the hearing, pay the Harris County Clerk for as many copies of letters testamentary or letters of administration as you desire.
4. If you bring the personal representative to the hearing, after the will is admitted to probate, he or she will be administered the oath in the courtroom, and letters testamentary or letters of administration will be handed to you in the courtroom before you leave, if you have a receipt from the Harris County Clerk reflecting payment for the letters.
5. If you choose not to bring the personal representative to the hearing, or if you do not have a receipt, you will get copies of letters from the clerk's office in accordance with current practices. You will not be able to pay for letters at the remote courthouses, either to the Harris County Clerk or to the Probate Court No. 2 staff.

After the pilot program has been in existence for a few months, we may make some adjustments.

Please watch the website for Probate Court No. 2, <http://www.co.harris.tx.us/probate/Crt2/Default>, for future announcements concerning this program.

Yours very truly,

Judge Mike Wood
Harris County Probate Court No. 2

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