



Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court

Ramon Garcia
County Judge

A. C. Cuellar, Jr.
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Hector "Tito" Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Joseph Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 4

OFFICE OF HIDALGO COUNTY JUDGE RAMON GARCIA

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COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE ADDS PAYMENT STATION TO COLLECT "SCOFFLAW" FINES AND FEES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Edinburg, Texas –Hidalgo County residents now have a quicker, more convenient way to pay their past due Justice of the Peace and County/District Court fines or fees. The County Clerk's Office has added a payment station at the Tax Office that will allow defendants to conveniently settle their Scofflaw debt immediately.

The Hidalgo County Scofflaw Program began in October 2012 as a way to collect outstanding fines and fees by identifying "scofflaws" who have skipped out on their monetary obligations. Currently, residents who owe the County past due fines or fees over 90 days are unable to register their motor vehicle until their debt is paid in full. They must either make their payment online, at a Justice of the Peace court in the jurisdiction of the offense or at the Collections Department where the fees and fines were assessed by the County/District Court. Once they have cleared their balance, they are then allowed to register their vehicle at the Tax Office.

In order to accelerate the payment process and save residents a trip to another department, the County Clerk's Office has set up a computer station at the Tax Office that accepts credit/debit card payments, which automatically releases the Scofflaw debt and allows citizens to receive their motor vehicle registration instantly.

County Clerk Arturo Guajardo, Jr. says he and his staff are always looking for ways to improve the scofflaw system and, in effect, create more revenue for the county.

"We want to make it as convenient and easy as possible for the citizens of Hidalgo County to pay their fines and fees," said Mr. Guajardo, Jr. "The addition of this payment station is just one way to accomplish this and we are in the process of exploring how to expand this service to our other substation offices, as well."

County officials urge the public to check the online database, which can be found at www.hidalgocounty.us, and take care of any outstanding payment prior to making a visit to the tax office.

For media interviews with Mr. Guajardo, Jr. please contact the Public Affairs Division at 956.292.7026.

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