March 23, 2020

Re: Legal Advisory

Dear Lone Star College Employees and Students:

Please note the following relevant actions taken by federal, state, and local governments in response to COVID-19.

**Student Loans**
All interest on federal student loans will be suspended for at least 60 days. All federal student loan borrowers will also have the option to suspend their payments for at least 60 days.

**Evictions and Foreclosures**
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has suspended any foreclosure or eviction proceedings against properties secured by Federal Housing Authority-insured Single-Family mortgages until May 17, 2020.

The Texas Supreme Court issued an emergency order prohibiting any eviction trial, hearing, or other related proceeding until after April 19, 2020.

All Harris County Justice of the Peace Courts have suspended all eviction proceedings until March 31, 2020.

Evictions based on certain emergency circumstances are not included in these suspensions.

**Custodial Arrangements**
The Texas Supreme Court issued an emergency order clarifying all custodial arrangements would be governed by the original K-12 academic calendar in place before the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Family Courts**
All family court cases in Harris County have been postponed until further notice except for essential court matters. Please contact the assigned court to confirm...
scheduling.

**Public Benefits**
Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (also known as the food stamp program) eligibility requirements have been reduced during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and Texas Department of Health and Human Services are monitoring the situation closely to ensure Americans have food in times of need.

Medicaid eligibility requirements similarly have been reduced to help ensure that recipients retain medical coverage during this period.

**Taxes**
Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin announced all taxpayers and businesses will have until July 15, 2020 to file tax returns and make payments without interest or penalties.

**Utilities**
Many utility providers are temporarily suspending customer disconnects. Contact your utility provider for details.

**Forms of Identification**
The Texas Department of Public Safety has temporarily waived expiration dates for Driver Licenses and other forms of identification.

**Other Relief**
Other relief has been and will likely continue to be announced by various federal, state, and local entities.

Our community is experiencing a rapidly evolving public health situation. The College will continue to monitor developments and advise you accordingly.