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Country: Mexico

1. THE MOST CRITICAL PHASE OF THE CRISIS

As long as measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 restrict freedom of movement: What are the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on civil justice?

Mexico Civil Justice has suffered a serious impact since the outbreak of COVID 19.

After several outbreaks of infection in our country, the Federal Government decided to establish a national program based on social distancing. This program has been in effect since March 23 and was expected to end on May 30, unfortunately, we are at the worst stage of the pandemic, so the suspension of activities has been delegated to the States. Particularly in Mexico City, it is estimated to last at least until June 15 or 30.

Accordingly, the Supreme Court suspended its activities, establishing that it will hold sessions using remote technology and ordered through the Judicature Council that all federal judges shall suspend activities until June 15 and only urgent cases should be attended.

So, this means that at both the federal and state levels, the justice system essentially remains in suspension in all matters.

2. FORECAST: AFTER THE CRISIS AND LONG-TERM EFFECTS

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What are the consequences of the Covid 19 pandemic once the pandemic has abated, in the gradual return to a new normality and what are the long-term effects?

Once the spread levels are controlled, all courts will gradually return to normal operation, although no one can predict when this ought to happen.

We have observed important advances in technological development by the justice system, both state and federal, facilitating the practice of law, despite physical restrictions.

We have also begun to experience what appears to be a looming economic crisis, with just over one million jobs lost so far and therefore we expect an increase in fraud and other property crimes.