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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 had 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 is expected to end on May 30, although - according to experts- there is no guaranteed deadline.

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 May 5th and only urgent cases should be attended.

Meanwhile, most of the states have followed the national program and their Judicature Councils have suspended all jurisdictional activity also to May 5th, attending only high-priority cases.

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

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

In our opinion, this crisis will permanently change the legal system as we must search for new and improved solutions for the administration of justice using electronic means.

Finally, in the long term, we estimate a severe economic crisis in our country and therefore an increase in fraud and other property crimes.