



## Attorney Help

Can I get help from an attorney? YES!

**IN THE METRO AREA**, seek help from any of these:

- **Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services** : (651) 222-5863
- **Neighborhood Justice Center**  
(651) 222-4703
- **Criminal Expungement Clinic**  
Takes place the 1st Tuesday of every month. Call the Council on Crime & Justice: (612) 353-3024
- **Minnesota Law Collective**  
(612) 760-3101
- **Hennepin County Government Center**  
Self Help Line: (612) 348-9399

**IN OTHER COUNTIES, CONTACT:**

- **The attorney who represented you**
- **The Public Defender's office**
- **A local legal aid office**

### CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA

450 N. Syndicate  
Suite 315  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
651.644.4438  
www.CLcMn.org

**INFORM**  
**NAVIGATE**  
**EMPOWER**

youth guide to  
**EXPUNGEMENT**

## How do I Apply for Expungement ?

**Start early!** The process is extremely long and will take at least 5 months, so consider this if you want expungement for a specific purpose or deadline. The processes differ depending on the type of record you have, but things you will need to do include:

- Think about why you want to have your record expunged. Is it for a specific purpose?
- Think about why the judge should grant you expungement. The judge wants to know that allowing the expungement will be good for you and your community.
- Recall the facts about your offense, and any crimes you were involved in before or after. Obtain your full criminal history.
- Be prepared to go to court, tell the judge your story, and answer any of his or her questions.

# EXPUNGING CRIMINAL RECORDS



## Why Have My Records Expunged?

If you were arrested, charged, or found guilty as a juvenile offender, these records can stay with you long after you enter adulthood. They can make it very difficult to enroll in college, find a job, or rent an apartment. Expungement can remove many of these obstacles.

## How can I have my records expunged?

*You might be able to have your records expunged if:*

- You can show the judge that the benefit you will receive if your record is sealed is greater than any burden the public may experience if they are no longer able to access your criminal history

OR

- The criminal case was resolved in your favor —
  1. You were arrested but not charged,
  2. You were charged but charges were dismissed or you were found not guilty, or
  3. You never pled guilty or admitted guilt

***\*You should consult an attorney to discuss all options.***

*You will not be able to have your records expunged if:*

- You were required to register as a predatory offender.

## What will expungement do?

Depending on the type of record involved, expungement may allow the court to seal your record, so that no one (not even colleges, landlords, or employers) can see your criminal record.

## Will My Record Go Away Forever?

Not necessarily. If you get into criminal trouble again, the court might be able to open your records as part of an investigation. Some types of Expungement seal all government records, while others only seal court records and not records at some government agencies. If you were arrested, but never charged or convicted, your record can be sealed and returned to you, but some government agencies could still disqualify you from certain licenses (teaching, daycare, CNA) because of your past record.

## Will it Cost Money?

Unless you were found not guilty, you will need to pay a \$322 fee to apply. You may also need to pay smaller fees (around \$8) to get certain files you need. Your attorney may be able to help you if you cannot afford these fees.

