

New Pennsylvania Law Allows Old and Minor Convictions To Be Sealed

If you do not know what is on your record, you can:

1. Ask for a copy of your record at the Clerk of Court's office on the 3rd Floor of the Criminal Justice Center at 1301 Filbert St.
2. Find your record online at http://tinyurl.com/pa_crimrec



As of November 14, 2016, **people with certain misdemeanor convictions can ask the court to seal their record.** A sealed record will only be available to law enforcement. It will **NOT be available to employers or the public.**

You may be eligible if all of the following apply:

1. You were convicted (plead guilty or were found guilty) of an offense that was a **misdemeanor of the 2nd or 3rd degree.**
 - Common offenses include drug possession, DUI, minor theft, disorderly conduct, and prostitution.
2. You have been **free of arrest and conviction for a period of 10 years** following the completion of your sentence.
3. You have **never been convicted of certain crimes**, including any felonies, 1st degree misdemeanors, or 2nd degree simple assault (the most common kind).
4. You have **fewer than four misdemeanor convictions.**
5. You have **paid all fines and costs** owed on the case.

* There are other exceptions as well - consult with a lawyer if you think you may be eligible.*

Center City Office:

1424 Chestnut St. | Philadelphia, PA 19102-2505 | Telephone: 215-981-3700 clsphila.org

North Philadelphia Law Center:

1410 West Erie Ave. | Philadelphia, PA 19140-4136 | Telephone: 215-227-2400

For help sealing or expunging your record:

Community Legal Services
Ph: 215.981.3700
www.clsphila.org

The Defender Association of Philadelphia
Ph: 215.568.3190
www.philadefender.org

Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity
Ph: 215.995.1230
www.plsephillyt.org

For help with the pardon process:

The Pardon Me Clinic
Ph: 215-668-8477
www.x-offenders.org

Community Legal Services
Ph: 215.981.3700
www.clsphila.org



SOME CRIMINAL RECORDS CAN BE FULLY EXPUNGED, including:

1. Non-conviction charges (charge was dismissed, withdrawn, nolle prossed, not guilty, etc.).
2. ARD/Section 17 if you complete the program and pay the fine.
3. Summary convictions if you have a five-year arrest free period since the conviction.
4. Any conviction if you are 70+ years old and have a ten-year arrest free period since the conviction(s).

As of November, there is a **fee of \$132 to petition the court to have a record sealed or expunged**. If you cannot afford this fee, you should ask the court to proceed ***in forma pauperis (IFP)***.

If you have a case that **CANNOT** be expunged or sealed, the only way to get it off your record is by **applying for a pardon from the Governor**.

- There is a recommended waiting period of at least five years from the completion of a misdemeanor sentence and ten years from the completion of a felony sentence before applying.
- All court fines and costs should be paid.

The pardon process is long (it can take 4+ years), but if you get a pardon, your conviction(s) can be expunged!

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