

# Juvenile Expungement Fact Sheet

## Record:



When you were arrested as a juvenile, the police station and the court began creating records that are kept and maintained. You **WILL** have a juvenile record **EVEN IF** you were arrested and released from the police station, your case was dismissed, you were found “not delinquent,” “not guilty” or “innocent,” your conviction was reversed or you were placed on supervision or probation.

## Consequences of Record:

Having a juvenile record can make it hard to get a job, find a place to live, obtain credit or licenses needed to do certain types of jobs and qualify for student loans. Getting your juvenile record expunged may help remove these negative consequences.

## What is expungement?



When you have your juvenile records expunged, the record will not be available to employers and the rest of the general public. It will be treated as if it never happened. For example, when you apply for a job you do **not** have to tell a potential employer about the case you had expunged. However, for certain types of careers you have to disclose even expunged records and they will have access to them as well. Also certain law enforcement agencies and military still have access to expunged juvenile records. Still, expungement is an important step towards making sure you are not shut off from future opportunities.

## How do I expunge my juvenile records?

There is a process that you need to follow in order to expunge your juvenile police and court records. **THEY WILL NOT JUST GO AWAY BECAUSE THE CASE WAS DISMISSED OR YOU NEVER WENT TO COURT!** You first need to determine when and if you are eligible to get your records expunged. You then need to complete court forms. You do not need a lawyer to get your records expunged but it may be helpful to work with an attorney. Free legal assistance does exist, however there is a cost involved to expunge your records! You may be eligible to waive the required costs

## For more information:



For an information packet with forms to complete for Cook County records, contact the Clerk of the Circuit Court at 312-433-4941, 1100 S. Hamilton, Room 13, Chicago, IL 60612

To obtain general information contact the Office of the Presiding Judge at 312-433-6935

To obtain legal assistance contact the Office of the State Appellate Defender at 866-431-4907 or [www.state.il.us/defender/exp.html](http://www.state.il.us/defender/exp.html)