

CRIMINAL RECORD EXPUNGEMENT



Criminal record expungement deletes a **public** record of a criminal case. Removing the record means it is less likely to appear on any employment or housing background checks.

WHY expunge criminal records?

Better employment, housing, and educational opportunities.

Do I need a lawyer?

No, but a lawyer can make the process smoother!

What **CAN** be expunged?

- Any convictions for a criminal charge no longer considered a crime (such as cannabis possession)
- A case where you were acquitted, pardoned, found not guilty or criminally responsible, *nolle prosequi*, or *stet*. Most misdemeanors can be expunged.

What **CANNOT** be expunged?

- Most felony convictions, a case in which you have pending charges, are currently serving a sentence, or other convictions while charges are pending. (except PBJ, effective 10/1/2024)
- Alcohol-related driving offenses.
- Civil cases.
- Protective orders or peace orders.
- Cases with multiple charges, unless all charges are eligible (the "unit" rule).
- Cases with a violation of probation.

KEY TERMS

Record

Refers to police records, reports, and court documents.

Nolle Prosequi

A case where the prosecutor declined to pursue the charge.

Stet

A case that has been postponed indefinitely.

Nuisance

Offenses such as loitering, panhandling, and drinking alcohol in public.

Probation Before Judgment (PBJ)

Limited to drunk driving offenses and refers to being placed on probation prior to conviction.

Can all past criminal cases be expunged?

The law is constantly changing and a case that may be considered ineligible today may not be in a few years.

TYPE OF RECORD	WHEN IT CAN BE EXPUNGED	COST
• <i>Nolle prosequi</i> , pardoned, not guilty, acquitted, dismissed	IMMEDIATELY	\$0
• Cannabis possession	IMMEDIATELY	\$30
• Probation before judgement, <i>stet</i>	3 YEARS	\$0
• Certain "nuisance" convictions • Possession with intent to distribute cannabis	3 YEARS	\$30
• Eligible misdemeanors	5 YEARS	\$30
• Eligible felony convictions	7 YEARS	\$30
• First or second-degree burglary and felony theft convictions	10 YEARS	\$30

Don't see your conviction? Contact Shore Legal Access to see if you are eligible!

GET HELP

Learn more about expungement and call or complete an intake form to see if you are eligible.



SCAN & LEARN MORE

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