

**This brochure is about expunging juvenile records about you from Maryland court and police records only.**

## Who uses expungement?

Answer: Defendants in Maryland **criminal** cases or individuals with a Maryland juvenile record.

This brochure has information on expunging juvenile records only. If you want to expunge adult criminal records, see the brochure *How Can I Expunge My Criminal Record?*

## What is a juvenile record?

Answer: A court record and police record about a child who:

- has been alleged or adjudicated delinquent;
- has been alleged or adjudicated in need of supervision;
- has received a citation for a violation.

## For more information

Read the law:  
Md. Code, Courts and Judicial Proceedings § 3-8A-27.1

Legal Help Page:  
[mdcourts.gov/legalhelp/expungement](http://mdcourts.gov/legalhelp/expungement)

People's Law Library of Maryland  
[peoples-law.org/introduction-juvenile-record-expungement](http://peoples-law.org/introduction-juvenile-record-expungement)

Department of Family Administration:  
[courts.state.md.us/family/juvrecordexpungement](http://courts.state.md.us/family/juvrecordexpungement)

Court forms:  
[mdcourts.gov/courtforms](http://mdcourts.gov/courtforms)

Public law libraries:  
[mdcourts.gov/lawlib](http://mdcourts.gov/lawlib)  
or call 410-260-1430

[mdcourts.gov/accesstojustice](http://mdcourts.gov/accesstojustice)

410-260-1258

# How Can I Expunge My Juvenile Record?



[mdcourts.gov](http://mdcourts.gov)

# I have a juvenile record. Can I file for expungement?

## Yes, if:

### ALL of the following are true:

- You are at least 18 years old;
- At least two years have passed since the last official action in your juvenile record;
- You have never been adjudicated delinquent or you have not been adjudicated delinquent more than once;
- You have not been convicted of any offense since your juvenile case;
- You do not have a pending delinquency petition or criminal charge;
- You have not been adjudicated delinquent for an offense that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony, a crime of violence, or a fourth degree sexual offense;
- You were not required to register in Maryland as a sex offender;
- You have not been adjudicated delinquent for an offense involving the use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence;
- You have fully paid any monetary restitution ordered by the court in the delinquency case.

## AND

### ONE of the following occurred:

- The Office of the State's Attorney entered a nolle prosequi;
- The delinquency or child in need of supervision petition or citation was dismissed;
- The court, in an adjudicatory hearing, did not find that the allegations in the petition or citation were true;
- An adjudicatory hearing was not held within two years after the petition or citation was filed;
- The court, in a disposition hearing, found that you **did not** require guidance, treatment or rehabilitation;
- The court, in a disposition hearing, found that you **did** require guidance, treatment or rehabilitation.

### In reviewing your petition for expungement, the court must consider EACH of the following:

- Your best interests;
- Your stability in the community;
- The safety of the public.

# How do I file for expungement?

- Fill out a Petition for Expungement of Juvenile Records (Form JUV -11-601).
- File the completed and signed Petition for Expungement in person or by mail with the Clerk's office of the court in which the petition or citation was filed.
- If required by law, the court will send a copy of your petition to:
  - certain victims in your case;
  - certain family members of the victim;
  - the Office of the State's Attorney.

The court may or may not schedule a hearing.

- If no one files an objection, the court may **grant your petition** without a hearing.
- If you did not meet the requirements of the law, the court may **deny your petition** without a hearing.

If your petition for expungement is denied, you may appeal the court's decision.

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