

WE ARE THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S

RECORDS CLEARING UNIT



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:

EXPUNGEMENTS EDITION

WHAT IS AN EXPUNGEMENT?

A legal process that allows a criminal conviction to be dismissed from your record.

In California, an expunged conviction is typically removed from most background checks conducted by private employers and housing providers.

However, the conviction may still be visible to government agencies, law enforcement, and certain licensing boards.

WHY ARE EXPUNGEMENTS IMPORTANT?

Studies show that people with criminal records face significantly higher unemployment rates compared to the general population.

Clearing your record can improve access to:

- Employment opportunities and housing opportunities
- Professional licensing
- Educational and financial opportunities

Stable employment is one of the strongest factors in reducing recidivism. Individuals who can secure and maintain employment after a conviction are statistically far less likely to reoffend.

WHAT CAN AN EXPUNGEMENT NOT DO?

- Does not restore your right to own or possess a firearm
- Does not remove your name from the sex registration list
- Does not completely erase or destroy your criminal record
- Does not prevent government agencies or licensing boards from viewing the conviction in certain situations

**HAVE QUESTIONS?
CONTACT US!**



213-204-9904



RecordsClearingUnit@pubdef.lacounty.gov

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WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR EXPUNGEMENT?

To qualify for an expungement in California:

- Your conviction must have occurred in California
- Your conviction must have been from a state case

YOU CANNOT HAVE:

- Any open criminal cases
- An active bench warrant

YOU CANNOT CURRENTLY BE:

- On probation
- On parole

WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO OBTAIN AN EXPUNGEMENT?

- Complete Court Form CR-180 and select the appropriate type of expungement for your case
- Attach a supporting declaration using Court Form MC-031 and mitigation documents
- File and serve all required documents on the appropriate prosecuting agency and the Court
- Attend your court hearing and ask the judge to grant your motion

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS PROCESS ALONE!

**The LA County Public Defender's office
can do it for you, free of charge!**

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Every case is different. Eligibility for expungement depends on the specific facts of your case, including the charges, sentence, and your current status with the court. Consulting with an attorney or legal aid organization can help determine whether you qualify.

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