


What is an **Expungement**

It's a great opportunity! An expungement under NJSA 2C:52-1 is the removal and isolation of all records on file within any court, detention or correctional facility, law enforcement, criminal justice agency or juvenile justice agency concerning a person's apprehension, arrest, detention, trial or disposition of an offense within the criminal or juvenile justice systems. If an order of expungement is granted, the record of law enforcement taking you into custody as a juvenile, the adjudication of delinquency, the disposition and any related proceedings are considered not to have occurred. Adult arrests and convictions are handled individually.

Which Offenses **Can't** Be **Expunged**?

Please note that some offenses cannot be expunged. They include criminal homicide, kidnapping, luring or enticing, human trafficking, aggravated sexual assault, aggravated criminal sexual contact, criminal sexual contact, criminal restraint, false imprisonment, robbery, arson and related offenses, endangering the welfare of a child, selling or manufacturing child pornography, perjury, false swearing, prostitution of a child, terrorism, producing or possessing chemical weapons, biological agents or nuclear or radiological devices, conspiracies or attempts to commit such crimes.



*Remove the past
from your future.*

When Can I Request an **Expungement**?

Any juvenile adjudicated delinquent may have his/her entire record of delinquency adjudications expunged if:

- Five years have passed since the final discharge, including payment of fines, from legal custody or supervision and no new offenses have occurred in the past five years.
- Youthful Drug Offender: If your conviction/adjudication was **only** for possession or use of a controlled dangerous substance and it occurred while you were 21 or younger, then you may be eligible for expungement after only one year. Distribution offenses are not eligible to be expunged as a Youthful Drug Offender.

You May Need to **Contact**:

- Attorney General of New Jersey
- Superintendent of State Police, Expungement Unit
- Municipal Court Clerk
- Criminal Case Management Office
- County Prosecutor Office
- County Identification Bureau
- County Family Division Office
- County Probation Division Office
- Chief of Police / Public Safety Director
- Warden or Superintendent, if incarcerated
- Division of Criminal Justice,
- Records and Identification Unit
- Records Division of any institution if incarcerated
- County Identification Bureau

How to File for an Order of **Expungement**

Locate your records. A record check with the N.J. State Police will help you gather your complete record. You will need the following items:

- The date of your arrest(s).
- The statute and offenses for why you were arrested.
- The original indictment, accusation, summons, docket number, warrant number, or complaint number. Include all of them if you have more than one.
- The date of the disposition, which could be the date of conviction or adjudication of delinquency, date of not guilty verdict or date of dismissal.
- The specific punishment, court order, or other disposition.
- The release document proving you have satisfied all court-ordered obligations.

Once you have the information, you're ready to request your expungement:

Step 1: Request State Police Criminal History Record—Fingerprint Check

Step 2: Complete the Necessary Forms

Step 3: File and Serve the Forms

Step 4: Pay the Filing Fee

Step 5: Distribute the Filed Copies

Step 6: Go to the Hearing

Step 7: Distribute Your Finalized Expungement Order

Be sure to make and keep copies of all forms and documentation.

For more detailed information and to obtain the forms you will need, please go to the following website: www.njcourts.com/prose

What Does Expungement Mean to Me?

It removes all records of your arrest, conviction, adjudication, and disposition within both the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems.

It will allow you to answer “no” when asked by a non-law enforcement employer if you have ever been arrested.

It will make it easier for you to seek financial aid for educational purposes.

It will remove some obstacles in place for you to receive employment licenses and certifications.

It will allow you to put your past behind you and become an active and productive member of your community.



New Jersey Justice Commission
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*Realizing Potential and
Changing Futures*

Understanding Expungement and its Benefits

