

Columbia County Juvenile Probation Department

Expungement of Juvenile Records

Expungement means to do away with, erase or to delete. If you have been placed on informal probation, consent decree or adjudicated delinquent in Columbia County, the following information is provided to you in this notice.

Depending on the manner in which your case was handled and if you have not again become arrested or under the juvenile court jurisdiction, you may qualify to have your record expunged. If you are re-arrested and become adjudicated delinquent, the expungement benefits described to you within this letter may no longer apply.

The responsibility to pursue an expungement is on you, not the juvenile probation department. If you wish to pursue expungement you need to contact juvenile probation to begin the process of filing a motion and petition to the court to expunge your record(s). You will need to pay a fee of \$45.00 per petition to juvenile probation to prepare the motion and petition and you will need to avail yourself in person for signature of papers prior to filing of such. The filing of the petition does not guarantee expungement as it must be approved by the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, District Attorney and then forwarded to the Judge. If at any time during the process it is disapproved, a court hearing on the petition will be scheduled. **Please keep in mind that you must satisfy in full any and all court costs and fees and restitution balances involved in the case prior to requesting an expungement.** An outstanding balance will disqualify you for expungement. You may also contact an attorney of your choosing to file a motion and petition for expungement. You would be responsible for their fees for services.

Generally, there are three instances in which you may be able to pursue to obtain an expungement of your juvenile records. They are listed below for your reference.

1. If you have been placed on Informal Adjustment or on Consent Decree you must wait six (6) months after you have been released from juvenile probation supervision, provided that during that time you have not been convicted of a felony, misdemeanor, or adjudicated delinquent and no such proceeding is pending seeking such conviction or adjudication.
2. If you have been Adjudicated Delinquent you must wait until five (5) years after you have been released from juvenile probation supervision provided that during that time you have not been convicted of a felony, misdemeanor or adjudicated delinquent and no such proceeding is pending seeking such conviction or adjudication.

3. If you do not qualify under #1 or #2, but are 18 years of age or older, the attorney for the Commonwealth may consent to the expungement after giving consideration to the following factors:
 - a. The type of offense
 - b. The individual's age, history of employment, criminal activity, and drug/alcohol problems.
 - c. Adverse consequences that the individual may suffer if the records are not expunged.
 - d. Whether retention of the record is required for the purposes of protecting the community.

An expungement order signed by a Columbia County Court Judge, is the only means by which all of your records can be destroyed.

If you meet the criteria and would like to expunge a juvenile record(s) contact Columbia County Juvenile Probation at 14 West Main Street, PO Box 380, Bloomsburg, PA 17815 or (570) 389-5684 for additional information.