

## Expungement of Criminal Records

I received a call from someone who, during college days, was convicted of a misdemeanor. He learned his lesson, successfully completed his probation, had no new arrests and is now a model citizen. He asked if there was anything to do to clean his record. I was glad to tell him: Yes!! Washington has a provision allowing people, who have successfully navigated probation, to seek a record clearance. This process is known as “expungement”. He would no longer have to answer “Yes” to that dreaded question, “Have you ever been convicted of a crime”? Not every person with a criminal conviction is eligible; the law does not allow expungement for sex crimes and crimes against children, if you had multiple convictions or were arrested while on probation.

Don't think that conviction will follow you forever. There is a process to help you remove that mark from your records.

While you may have a criminal record, and while the expungement process occurs “on the record” in the court of conviction, you should not have to appear and explain yourself. If you case meet statutory requirements, your expungement is all but guaranteed on the basis of paperwork and facts.

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