

Who We Are

We advocate with and for Marylanders experiencing poverty to achieve equity and social justice through free civil legal services, community collaboration, and systems change.

Established in 1911, Maryland Legal Aid is a statewide private, nonprofit law firm that provides free, civil legal services to low-income and vulnerable people to address their most fundamental legal problems. From our 12 offices throughout the state and through our community-based clinics, we help our clients preserve and access safe and affordable housing, maintain and regain custody of their children, and be safe from domestic violence. Maryland Legal Aid increases our clients' economic security by defending against consumer debt, including foreclosures and tax sales, removing barriers to employment, and accessing critical income supports such as unemployment, food stamps and other vital public benefits. Through special projects, we represent elder adults, nursing home residents, children in alleged abuse and neglect cases, and migrant farmworkers. In its advocacy, Maryland Legal Aid seeks systemic change through impact litigation, in our advocacy, and by storytelling.

Maryland Criminal Record Expungement

Your criminal record may keep you from securing employment in Maryland:

What is a criminal record expungement?

A criminal record expungement means that any arrests or criminal records are destroyed or sealed. An expunged record cannot be seen by the public. However, the record may still be seen by government agencies, police, military, and other agencies that require a security clearance for a particular job.

Contact information

Centralized Intake: 1-888-465-2468
is now serving all jurisdictions:

Offices

Allegheny/Garrett

138 Baltimore Street
Suite 204
Cumberland, MD 21502

Anne Arundel/Howard

2024 West Street
Suite 204
Annapolis, MD 21401
3451 Court House Drive
2nd Floor
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Baltimore City

500 E. Lexington Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Baltimore County

215 Washington Avenue
Suite 305
Towson, MD 21204

Cecil/Harford

103 S. Hickory Avenue
Bel Air, MD 21014

Lower Eastern Shore Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester

201 E. Main Street
Salisbury, MD 21801

Midwestern Maryland Carroll, Frederick, Washington

22 S. Market Street
Suite 11
Frederick, MD 21701

Montgomery County

600 Jefferson Plaza
Suite 430
Rockville, MD 20852

Prince George's County

8401 Corporate Drive
Suite 200
Landover, MD 20785

Southern Maryland Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's

15045 Burnt Store Road
Hughesville, MD 20637

Upper Eastern Shore Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot

106 N. Washington Street
Suite 101
Easton, MD 21601

TTY Users: Call Maryland Relay, Dial 7-1-1

www.mdlab.org

For more information

www.peoples-law.org

For self-help legal information and
community resources

9.13.2024



Maryland Criminal Record Expungement



What cases can be expunged from Maryland state records?

Not all cases can be expunged, however, the following list includes examples of items that CAN be expunged from Maryland state records, with some exceptions:

- Favorable dispositions (Nolle Prosequi, Not Guilty, Dismissal, Acquittal, Release Without Charge);
- Stet (after three years);
- Probation Before Judgment (after three years generally, with some exceptions);
- Juvenile Transfer (you were charged as an adult, but then transferred to juvenile court);
- Some civil citations;
- Convictions for nuisance crimes:
- Marijuana possession and associated paraphernalia;
- Some convictions are eligible after a 5, 7, 10 or 15 year waiting period;
- Maryland Legal Aid attorneys can only file expungements in Maryland State cases;
- Possession with intent to distribute marijuana (after three years).

Resources to help you find and review your Criminal Record to see what items are expungeable

You can perform an online case search of your Maryland criminal record back to 1990: <http://casesearch.courts.state.md.us/casesearch>

- This will NOT show any cases that resulted in dispositions of nolle prosequi, acquittal, or dismissal.
- Even if a case does not show on the Maryland Judiciary Case Search, that does NOT necessarily mean that it has been expunged.

For a more thorough criminal background check of all cases for which you were fingerprinted, you can request a Criminal Justice Information System/CJIS report.

- 6776 Reisterstown Road, Suite 102, Baltimore, MD 21215
- Call 410-764-4501 or 1-888-795-0011 (toll free) to make an appointment
- Appointments can be made at the Reisterstown Road office or at MVA locations in Bel Air, Frederick, Glen Burnie, Salisbury, and Waldorf.

- The cost is \$38.00 payable by Visa, MasterCard, or cashier's check at the Reisterstown Road office. The fee can only be paid with Visa or MasterCard at MVA locations. Cash and money orders are not accepted.

Are any records automatically expunged?

Any case where all the charges arising out of the same incident and arrest have a disposition of Nolle Prosequi, Not Guilty, Acquittal, or Dismissal after October 1, 2021 will be automatically expunged after three years.

Some marijuana possession charges qualify for automatic, partial expungement.

However, you may be able to have a case expunged earlier if you sign a waiver of your right to file a lawsuit against the associated law enforcement agency.

Other organizations that may be able to help you with your criminal record expungement:

- **Shore Legal Access**
Phone: 410-690-8128
Website: www.shorelegal.org
- **Maryland Volunteer Legal Services**
Phone: 410-547-6537
Website: www.mvlslaw.org
- **Community Legal Services**
Phone: 240-391-6370
Website: www.clspgc.org

What happens after my expungement has been filed?

After you or your attorney submits your petition for expungement to the court, the State's Attorney's Office has 30 days to object. If that happens, a hearing will be scheduled. If the court orders your record expunged, the process can take up to one year. Agencies such as the police department have 60 days from the date of the court order to remove your record.

Make sure you confirm that your record was expunged by ordering a CJIS report. Always keep a copy of your court records and expungement court order.

Do I still have to disclose my Criminal Record on employment applications after Expungement?

You do not have to disclose arrests and convictions on employment applications if they have been expunged from your record. However, some employers (e.g. military employers or employers who require a security clearance) may still be able to see these items on your record. In these instances, it is generally better to disclose your record.

IMPORTANT: If you have a current charge, active warrant, or pending criminal case, you cannot file a petition to expunge any records until these matters are resolved.

Please contact your local Office of the Public Defender for information on how to resolve an open matter.