

Youthful Offender

If you were not convicted of a felony before age 21, your records will be automatically erased. You will not be viewed as having been arrested or convicted of a crime.

Adult Record

To have your adult criminal history erased/expunged, you must apply to the Board of Pardons and Paroles for a full/absolute pardon. There is a fee for this. Your application may be denied, you may be considered for "expedited review," or you may go to a hearing where a board will decide if your record will be erased/expunged. You may be considered for expedited review if you were convicted of a non-violent offense and there is no victim with an interest in your case.

You can apply for a pardon if 3 years have passed since your most recent misdemeanor conviction, or 5 years have passed since your most recent felony conviction, and you are not still supervised for parole or probation. You also should have a clean record since that time. Your entire criminal history will be considered for a full pardon; you cannot try to erase one offense and not another. Erasing your adult record does not include erasing your juvenile record. They are two separate records.



Why should I erase my juvenile record?

- There could be consequences to having a juvenile record, even if it is confidential.
- Your record may still be seen by officials related to the justice system and law enforcement.
- Your record may be accidentally reported or revealed, particularly among court officials.
- You may be barred from joining the military or from applying for other federal government jobs. Military recruiters often demand to know about any juvenile offenses, even if the offenses are supposed to be confidential.
- The process is free, easy and quick, if you meet the criteria.

Why should I erase my adult record?

- Your adult record is public and anyone can see it.
- Your record may be used against you by employers, housing providers and the state (license, etc).
- If your record is erased, it is like you never had a conviction.

Need Help?

For questions or information about your record and legal rights:
Center for Children's Advocacy

Hartford Office: 860-570-5327
Bridgeport Office: 203-335-0719

speakupteens.org
cca-ct.org



This brochure is intended as reference only and should not be interpreted as legal advice. If you need specific information about the law, please call 860-570-5327 or 203-335-0719.



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Do I have a record?

Who can see it?

Can I get it erased?

Do I have a record?

There are three types of records:

1. Juvenile Records

Court records of someone under 18 who was accused of or found to be a “juvenile delinquent.” This is someone found to have violated state or local laws while a minor. Juvenile status is for those whose crimes do not include the most serious violent crimes, and also for all youth under age 15.

A “serious juvenile offender” (SJO) is someone under 18 who is charged with more serious crimes. You may also be labeled a SJO for running away from a secure residential facility that you were placed in by the court.

2. Youthful Offender (YO)

Special status granted to 15, 16 or 17 year olds charged with a crime that is not a class A felony or certain class B felonies, and who has not previously been convicted of a felony on the regular adult criminal docket or previously found to be a SJO. The prosecutor will make the decision about your status.

If you are granted YO status, you are not convicted of any crime and all information related to your case is confidential.

3. Adult Record

If you are 15, 16 or 17 and were charged with a class A or certain class B felonies, your case will be heard in adult criminal docket if the court finds probable cause to believe you committed the offense. Court proceedings and all related records remain private unless a guilty plea or verdict of guilty is entered by the court.

If you are over 18 and commit a crime, your case will be heard in adult court. If this is your first offense in adult court and it meets certain conditions, you may be granted Accelerated Rehabilitation (AR), or access to another special court program. The information from your case will become confidential but only when AR is officially granted by the court, or you successfully completed the program the court offered you.



Is my record confidential? What does that mean?

Juvenile Records

Juvenile records are confidential and cannot be accessed by the general public. Certain people and agencies may still be able to see your records, such as court employees, employees of state or federal agencies involved in the delinquency proceedings, the victim, and organizations providing services, like community-based youth service bureau officials and DCF. Records may be open to the DMV for certain crimes involving motor vehicles.

Youthful Offender

Your YO record is confidential and cannot be accessed by the general public. Certain people and organizations may still be able to see your records, such as court employees, employees of state or federal agencies involved in the delinquency proceedings, the victim, and organizations providing services, like community-based youth service bureau officials and DCF. Records may be open to the DMV for certain crimes involving motor vehicles.

Adult Record

Your adult record is not confidential. It is available to the general public for any purpose.

Can I erase my record? How?

Juvenile Records

You or your parent/guardian can file a petition with the Juvenile Court to erase your record if all of these are true:

1. you are at least 18
2. two years have passed since your conviction (four years for a serious juvenile offense)
3. no new juvenile or adult criminal charges are pending
4. you have not been convicted of any new juvenile or adult crimes

The petition to erase your record does not cost anything. If you meet all the requirements above, the court must order all your records (arrest, complaint, referrals, petitions, reports and orders) to be erased. You will be considered as never having been arrested or being a juvenile delinquent.

You may petition for a court hearing to show good cause to get your record erased before the 2 or 4 year waiting period.

If your delinquency case was dismissed, all records are immediately and automatically erased. If your case was nollied, all records are erased after 13 months if you don't have any other pending charges. If you believe your record should have been erased under these circumstances, you should confirm this with the court.

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