

**LEHIGH COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT
CRITERIA FOR EXPUNGEMENT OF JUVENILE RECORDS**

You have officially concluded your period of supervision with this department as directed by the Juvenile Court of Lehigh County.

This notice is to inform you of the law as it relates to the expungement of your Lehigh County juvenile records. Generally expungement means to do away with, to erase and to delete. You may petition the court for an expungement of your Juvenile Court record through an attorney or on your own. The motion, approved by the District Attorney followed by an expungement order signed by a Lehigh County Judge, is the only means by which all of your records can be ordered destroyed. This expungement will not include summary offenses that were filed through the Magisterial District Judges office. The only PennDOT driving record that can be expunged is 'Purchase, Consumption, Possession or Transportation of Liquor or Malt or Brewed Beverages (18 Pa. C.S. §6308)'. The Juvenile Probation Department will only initiate expungement of the summary offense of 'Purchase, Consumption, Possession or Transportation of Liquor or Malt or Brewed Beverages if and when an individual completes the Underage Drinking Program and paid all the necessary fees, the Probation Aide will notify the Court Operations Officer.

The following avenues are available for you to pursue in an effort to obtain an expungement of your juvenile records.

1. When a case is disposed with **Counsel & Release** or the case is **withdrawn** or **dismissed** by the District Attorney's office, a motion for expungement will be filed immediately by the Juvenile Probation Department once the District Attorney's office is in agreement. The filing fee is waived for these cases.
2. In a case where a youth is diverted from the Juvenile Justice System by a referral to a diversionary program such as Community Justice Panels or School Justice Panels, and after successful completion, the juvenile and family will be provided with the necessary paperwork outlining the procedure for expungement.
3. In a case where a youth pays their Non-payment (Failure to obey process – fines/costs) in full, a motion for expungement may be filed after 6 months.
4. In a case where there is a finding of fact but no adjudication/case closed, a motion for expungement may be filed after 6 months.
5. Upon successful completion of an Informal Adjustment a motion for expungement may be filed after 6 months.
6. Upon successful completion of a **Consent Decree** a motion for expungement may be filed per the following condition:
 - a. Six months have expired since the final discharge of the consent decree; and no action is pending in either Juvenile Court or Criminal Court that could result in an adjudication or conviction;
7. Upon successful completion of Official Probation a motion for expungement may be filed per the following conditions:
 - a. Five years have elapsed since discharge from commitment, placement or Official Probation and during that period of time you have not been convicted of a felony, misdemeanor, or adjudicated delinquent **and** no proceeding is pending seeking such conviction or adjudication;

OR

 - b. You are 18 years or older. If less than 5 years have elapsed, approval from the District Attorney's Office is needed.

Additional Information:

- Upon receipt of the motion, the District Attorney has a 30 day period in which to respond.
- The filing fee for the expungement is determined by the Clerk of Judicial Records.
- DNA is not expunged unless the adjudication was reversed and charges dismissed or it was included in the database by mistake.
- Fingerprints and photographs will be expunged by the State Police Central Repository when the order is received.
- Proof of zero balance from the Lehigh County Collections Department is required.

**** Please be aware that certain crimes cannot be fully expunged.**