

YOUR CRIMINAL RECORD

WHAT IS IT?

A criminal record is created when you have contact with the criminal justice system.

Your driving record is separate from your criminal record. Driving records are maintained by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

WHAT IS ON IT?

Generally, any arrest, citation, conviction or non-conviction will appear on your criminal record. All these matters remain on your record forever, unless you make an effort to remove them. Criminal records are public information.

GET A COPY OF YOUR RECORD

You can get a copy of your official Maryland State record through the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS).

Department of Public Safety

Reisterstown Road Plaza

6776 Reisterstown Road, Suite 102

1-888-879-0111

410-764-4501

Cost is \$23.00 for fingerprinting.

EXPUNGEMENT

Expungement is a court process through which you may be able to remove certain events from your criminal record. Expungement applies only to the removal of non-convictions. Non-convictions include:

- Acquittal (Not Guilty)
- Dismissal
- Nolle Prosequi (Nol Pros)
- Stet
- Probation before Judgement (PBJ)

If your court case resulted in an acquittal (not guilty) or dismissal, then you can ask for expungement of the case at any time in the future.

If your court case resulted in a nol pros, stet, or PBJ, then you may ask for expungement as long as you do not have a conviction afterwards.

You must wait 3 years after your case is completed to apply for expungement. There are some exceptions to this waiting period.

The law governing expungement can be complex. It is best to review your criminal record with an attorney.

PARDONS

The pardon process applies only to court cases that result in a conviction (guilty). You must ask the Governor of Maryland for a pardon. The Maryland Parole Commission sets the guidelines for consideration of pardon requests.

If you are granted a pardon, then you must wait 5 years before asking for expungement.

