

## Maryland Legal Aid: Who We Are

This brochure was prepared by Maryland Legal Aid, a private, non-profit law firm dedicated to providing high quality legal advocacy to protect and advance human rights for individuals, families, and communities.

Established in 1911, Maryland Legal Aid provides free civil legal services to low-income individuals and families statewide and serves Baltimore City and Maryland's 23 counties from 12 full-service offices and three self-help centers. Maryland Legal Aid receives funding from federal, state and local governments, foundations, the United Way and other private sources. Because of certain funding limitations, most clients have incomes at or below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines. Further, Maryland Legal Aid focuses its practice on civil issues (e.g., housing, consumer, family, and public benefits) and does not accept criminal, personal injury, or traffic court matters, even if a person is financially eligible. Maryland Legal Aid does, however, provide assistance with criminal record expungements.

## Maryland Criminal Record Expungement

Your criminal record may keep you from securing employment, housing, a loan, credit, or custody of a child. Here are a few things you should know about Record Expungements 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, employers or background check agencies. However, the record may still be seen by government agencies, police, military, and other agencies that require a security clearance for a particular job.

## Maryland Legal Aid Offices

### Anne Arundel County

229 Hanover Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 972-2700  
(800) 666-8330

### Baltimore City

500 E. Lexington Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

#### Telephone Intake Lines:

(410) 951-7750  
(866) MD LAW 4U  
(or 866-635-2948)

#### Business Line:

(410) 951-7777  
(800) 999-8904

### Baltimore County

29 W. Susquehanna Avenue  
Suite 305  
Towson, MD 21204  
(410) 427-1800  
(877) 878-5920

### Lower Eastern Shore

Dorchester, Somerset,  
Wicomico, Worcester  
111 High Street  
Salisbury, MD 21801  
(410) 546-5511  
(800) 444-4099

### Metropolitan Maryland

Howard, Prince George's  
8401 Corporate Drive  
Suite 200  
Landover, MD 20785  
(301) 560-2100  
(888) 215-5316  
**District Court/  
Multi-service Center**  
3451 Court House Drive  
2nd Floor  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
(410) 480-1057

### Midwestern Maryland

Carroll, Frederick, Washington  
22 S. Market Street  
Suite 11  
Frederick, MD 21701  
(301) 694-7414  
(800) 679-8813

### Montgomery County

600 Jefferson Plaza  
Suite 430  
Rockville, MD 20852  
(240) 314-0373  
(855) 880-9487

### Northeastern Maryland

Cecil, Harford  
103 S. Hickory Avenue  
Bel Air, MD 21014  
(410) 836-8202  
(800) 444-9529

### Southern Maryland

Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's  
15364 Prince Frederick Road  
P.O. Box 249  
Hughesville, MD 20637  
(301) 932-6661  
(877) 310-1810

### Upper Eastern Shore

Caroline, Kent,  
Queen Anne's, Talbot  
106 N. Washington Street  
Suite 101  
Easton, MD 21601  
(410) 763-9676  
(800) 477-2543

### Western Maryland

Allegany, Garrett  
110 Greene Street  
Cumberland, MD 21502  
(301) 777-7474  
(866) 389-5243

### District Court Self-Help Resource Centers

(410) 260-1392  
**Annapolis** (call center only)  
**Glen Burnie**  
7500 Gov. Ritchie Highway  
Room 206  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061  
**Upper Marlboro**  
14735 Main Street  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

### Statewide

**Farmworker Program**  
(800) 444-4099  
**Foreclosure Legal Assistance Project**  
(888) 213-3320  
**Long Term Care Assistance Project**  
(866) 635-2948  
**Maryland Senior Legal Helpline**  
(866) 635-2948  
**Veterans' Hotline**  
(443) 863-4040

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

Visit [www.peoples-law.org](http://www.peoples-law.org) for self-help legal information and community resources.

For more information visit [www.mdlab.org](http://www.mdlab.org).

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Expungement

# Maryland Criminal Record Expungement

Advancing Human Rights and Justice for All in Maryland since 1911



MARYLAND  
LEGAL AID

## What charges CAN be expunged from Maryland state records?

The following list includes examples of items that CAN be expunged from Maryland state records, with some exceptions:

- Nolle Prosequi (Plaintiff or Prosecutor dropped the charges.)
- Stet (when a case becomes inactive; applies if no action was taken on your case for more than 3 years.)
- Probation Before Judgment/PBJ (you were placed on probation before a judgment has been entered; applies if no action was taken on your case for more than 3 years.)
- Release Without Charge (RWOC)
- Not Guilty verdict
- Case Dismissal
- Case Acquittal
- Juvenile Transfer (you were charged as an adult, but then transferred to juvenile court.)
- Civil Citations (e.g., violating the Open Container law.)
- Convictions for nuisance crimes (e.g., drinking alcohol or sleeping in public, panhandling, loitering, or using transit without payment.)
- Marijuana possession less than 10 grams.
- Many felony charges if the result was Nolle Prosequi, Stet, PBJ, Not Guilty, Dismissal, or Acquittal.
- Traffic violations if the possible penalty involved incarceration.

## What charges CANNOT be expunged from Maryland state records?

The following list includes examples of items that CANNOT be expunged from Maryland state records with some exceptions:

- Most Convictions—cases that ended in a guilty finding, except for a nuisance crime.
- Pending criminal matters.
- “Unit Rule”: If there are multiple charges or cases from the same incident, and any of those charges are not expungable, then the entire list of charges and cases from the initial incident is not expungable, regardless of the disposition (i.e., guilty or not guilty).

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

- You can do an online case search of your Maryland criminal record back to 1990: <http://casesearch.courts.state.md.us/casesearch/>
- Criminal Justice Information System/CJIS (if you were fingerprinted during your arrest)  
6776 Reisterstown Road, Suite 102,  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
8:30am – 6:00pm, Monday – Friday  
8:00am – 4:30pm, 1st and 3rd  
Saturday of the month

The cost is \$38.00 payable by money order, certified or personal check to CJIS-Central Repository. Cash is not accepted.

## Organizations that may be able to help you with your criminal record expungement

- Maryland Legal Aid  
See office locations and telephone numbers on reverse side.
- Homeless Persons Representation Project  
Phone: (410) 685-6589  
Website: [www.hprplaw.org](http://www.hprplaw.org)
- Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service  
Phone: (800) 510-0050  
Website: [www.mvlslaw.org](http://www.mvlslaw.org)
- Office of the Public Defender (OPD)  
(if you are already represented by the OPD in a criminal matter)

### You can Expunge your own Criminal Record

Visit <http://mdexpungement.com/> to expunge your criminal record on your own. It costs \$30 to file each expungement petition. Enter each case number and the website will offer guidance as to whether your record might qualify for expungement. The best way, however, to determine eligibility for expungement is to seek legal advice from an attorney.

## 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 has 30 days to object. If that happens, a hearing will be scheduled. If the court orders your record expunged, the process can take between 3 to 7 months. Agencies such as the police department have 60 days from the date of the court order to remove your record.

Make sure to confirm that your record was expunged by doing an online case search or getting another 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), are still going to 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 or case pending, you cannot expunge any records until the pending charge is resolved.

