

Expungement-Part 1 (Guilty Dispositions)

In certain circumstances, you may ask the court to expunge your criminal record. If the court grants your request, information about your case will be removed from court and law enforcement records. This video examines expungement for individuals who were found guilty or who pled guilty. Convictions are eligible for expungement in certain limited instances.

Watch the Video



Eligible Convictions

- You were found guilty of an act that is no longer a crime.
- The governor pardoned you.
- The crime was a certain nuisance crime, misdemeanor, or felony.
- You were convicted of cannabis (marijuana) possession or common law battery.

Knowing the Statutes

- To find the Maryland law or statute with which you were charged, look in Case Search (mdcourts.gov/casesearch) under the heading “Charge and Disposition Information.”
- Eligible nuisance crime convictions are listed in MD Code, Criminal Procedure § 10-105(9). The list includes panhandling, loitering, sleeping in parks, failure to prove transit payment, and public drinking and many more. Check the law for the most up-to-date list.
- Eligible misdemeanor convictions are listed in MD Code, Criminal Procedure § 10-110. Examples include theft, prostitution, second-degree assault, trespass, and possession of a controlled dangerous substance or paraphernalia. Find the full list of misdemeanors at mdcourts.gov/legalhelp/expungement.
- Three specific felony convictions are eligible for expungement: Theft, possession with intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance, and burglary.
- If you need help with legal research, ask a local law librarian or call the Maryland State Law Library at 410-260-1430.

Exceptions

- You cannot expunge a court record if you are currently a defendant in a pending criminal action.
- Your conviction cannot be expunged if even one of the charges in your case is ineligible. Multiple charges in a single instance or event make up a “unit.” If one of those charges is ineligible for expungement, then all charges in the unit are ineligible. Minor traffic offenses that don’t involve jail time and charges for possession of cannabis (marijuana) are not taken into consideration.



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One Last Thing

- Before you ask the court to expunge your case record, be sure you know how long you must wait before submitting your petition. There is a required waiting period. Part 5 of this series explains when to file.