

DID YOU KNOW?

- The law now allows one felony **and** one misdemeanor conviction (or two misdemeanors) to be sealed.
- Even if charges against you were dropped or you were found not guilty, the charges will still show up on a criminal background check.
- Criminal background checks are used by many employers and property managers to deny applications for employment and housing
- In most cases, you won't even have to appear in court to get your record sealed.

WHAT CAN BE SEALED?

- 1 felony (third degree or below) **and** 1 misdemeanor, or 2 misdemeanor convictions can be sealed.
- Unlimited number of acquittals, dismissed charges or "no bills"
- Unlimited number of minor misdemeanors (except traffic violations)
- In most cases, you won't even have to appear in court to get your record sealed.

Expungement Clinic: Free Legal Advice and Assistance in Clearing Your Record in the Shaker Heights Municipal Court

For further information or to
schedule an appointment, register at:

<http://reentry.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/20121212-Expungement-Clinic.aspx>

Call: (216) 443-7216 or
E-mail: Expunge@cuyahogacounty.us

Sponsored by:
Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry
Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
Shaker Hts. Municipal Court

EVER HAVE A CASE IN SHAKER HTS. MUNICIPAL COURT?

EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC

**Free Legal Advice and
Assistance in Clearing
Your Record in the Shaker
Hts. Court**

**Wednesday
Dec. 12, 2012**

4:00—7:00 p.m

**Shaker Heights
Municipal Court
3355 Lee Rd. .
Shaker Hts., OH**

Across from City Hall

Free parking on premises

Easily accessible by RTA

Blue Line Rapid

Bus #s 14, 37, 40

WHY HAVE YOUR RECORD SEALED?

A criminal history (even if the case was dismissed or if you were found not guilty) can appear on a criminal background check or a credit report and can act as a barrier to:

- Professional licenses such as teaching, nursing, day care provider
- Employment
- Private housing
- Subsidized housing
- Obtaining credit (loans, credit cards, mortgages)
- College admission

If your case is sealed, it will not appear on your credit report or show up in a criminal background check. If asked on an employment or housing application if you have been convicted of a crime, you can honestly answer, "no."

Wednesday December 12, 2012
4:00 — 7:00 p.m.

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ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

Basic Rule: You can have, at most, two misdemeanor convictions, or one misdemeanor and one (lower level) felony conviction.

- This includes convictions from anywhere in the U.S., not just Ohio
- Two or more convictions based on the same criminal incident are treated like one conviction
- Routine traffic offenses and minor misdemeanors (tickets) don't count towards the total number of convictions
- No limit to the number of minor misdemeanors that can be sealed
- No limit to the number of dismissals or acquittals that can be sealed
- Can have no criminal charges pending

Waiting Period: There is a minimum waiting period after the "final discharge" of your sentence before you can apply to have your conviction sealed. "Final discharge" means the end of a jail sentence, any term of probation or parole, and the payment of any court ordered fine or restitution, *whichever comes last*. The waiting period is:

- For misdemeanors, 1 year
- For felonies, 3 years
- No wait for dismissals or acquittals

Offenses ineligible for sealing:

Certain offenses can never be sealed:

- Any first or second degree felony
- Any offense with a mandatory prison term
- Any felony or first degree misdemeanor where the victim was under 18 (except non-payment of support)
- Most violent offenses
- Any sexual offense
- DUI, hit-and-run
- Traffic offenses (but they are not counted as criminal convictions)

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Read the information in the previous column to see if you might be eligible to have your record sealed.

Although you can walk-in on Dec. 12th, you are encouraged to set up an appointment. This will reduce your wait time and speed the preparation of required documents.

To schedule an appointment, register on-line at

<http://reentry.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/20121212-Expungement-Clinic.aspx>,

call (216)443-7216 or

e-mail: Expunge@cuyahogacounty.us

Obtain and bring with you the case number and docket information for your case in Shaker Hts. Court. This information is available at:

http://www.shakerheightscourt.org/search/Shaker_TrafficCriminal_CaseSearch.asp

You will need to pay a court filing fee of up to \$150 for each case that you wish to have sealed. Payment may be by cash, check, or credit/debit card. If you can prove that you are indigent, the judge may waive the filing fee.

Be prepared to spend at least 30-45 minutes with an attorney to prepare all necessary forms.

If you have a case in a different court that also is eligible to be sealed, you will be given assistance in preparing forms, but you will have to take the forms with you and file them in the appropriate court.