

Clean up your Criminal Record:



Pennsylvania Summary Convictions can now be Expunged!

What is the new law?

- People are now eligible to ask the courts to **clear their record of summary convictions** if they have **been free of arrest or prosecution for at least five years**. This new law (18 Pa.C.S.A. §9122(b)(2)) takes effect on January 26, 2009 and applies to all summary convictions over 5 years old.
- You still must apply for a pardon for misdemeanor or felony convictions, or if you are not eligible for an expungement for your summary conviction.

What is a summary offense?

- Summary offenses are minor offenses, such as disorderly conduct, reckless driving, & (some) retail theft offenses, which are usually punishable only by a fine. Summary offenses are less serious than misdemeanor and felony offenses.

What does it mean to have a record expunged?

- Expungement is the process by which a criminal record is sealed and destroyed. Essentially, the summary offense disappears from your record after having it expunged.

What should I do to get my record expunged?

- Obtain a copy of your criminal record.
- Ask the court clerk for information on filing your own petition for expungement.
- Contact the legal services program in your county for assistance - <http://www.palegalaid.net>.