

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE

IN THIS PROJECT?

If you feel you are eligible to participate in The Expungement Project, you may contact the Centralized Intake Unit of South Jersey Legal Services, Inc. at (800) 496-4570 to be screened for eligibility during intake hours of Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. At the initial review, we will decide if you are financially eligible. An intake staff member will obtain information about your income, family size, assets and the matter for which you are seeking help. All information you provide SJLS remains confidential. If you are financially eligible, we then decide whether your case is one for which we can provide representation based on our established priorities. If the case is one which we cannot handle, we will attempt to refer you to an organization which will provide assistance. If your case is one that we usually handle, but because of limited resources we are unable to handle at present, we will try to find other legal representation for you.

WHO WE ARE

South Jersey Legal Services, Inc. (SJLS) is a private non-profit law firm whose mission is to provide high quality civil legal services to low-income residents of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem Counties.

WHAT WE DO

SJLS provides free legal services aiding low-income clients in selected civil cases based on established priorities. SJLS most often provides advice, brief services or extended representation in the following areas: Supplemental Security Income Benefits, Temporary Aid to Needy Families, General Assistance, Food Stamps, Medicaid, Unemployment Benefits, Domestic Violence, Landlord/Tenant Disputes, Public Housing Rights, Section 8 Housing Assistance, Migrant Farmworker Rights, Rights of the Elderly, Bankruptcy, Foreclosure and Consumer Issues.

FOR ATTORNEYS

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING

If you want to participate in this Project, please contact:

Michelle T. Nuciglio, Esquire
Director of Pro Bono Services
856-403-8620

MNuciglio@lsnj.org

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING?

- ◆ The satisfaction of donating your time and talents to helping needy individuals in your community.
- ◆ Time towards satisfaction of your annual *Madden* requirement.
- ◆ Malpractice insurance at no cost for the duration of the client's case.
- ◆ All reasonable case-related costs covered by SJLS or exempt by Court Rule.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF PARTICIPATING ATTORNEYS?

- ◆ The same, high quality service provided to paying clients.
- ◆ Status updates every three months.
- ◆ Communication with the PAI Program when issues arise with clients or cases.

The Expungement Project

*Private, volunteer attorneys and in-house
staff attorneys assisting
low-income individuals with
clearing their criminal records*



South Jersey Legal Services, Inc.
**Private Attorney
Involvement Program**

Centralized Intake Unit
(800) 496-4570

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LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION



The Expungement Project

WHAT IS THE EXPUNGEMENT PROJECT?

The Expungement Project assists income-eligible individuals with obtaining an expungement of their New Jersey *criminal* record. South Jersey Legal Services, Inc. (SJLS) attorneys and volunteer attorneys participating in the SJLS Private Attorney Involvement Program assist eligible clients.

The Project does not assist with out-of-state criminal records, nor does it assist with the expungement of Involuntary Civil Commitment Records.

WHAT IS AN EXPUNGEMENT?

According to *N.J.S.A. 2C:52-1*, an expungement is defined as the “extraction and isolation of all records on file within any court, detention or correctional facility, law enforcement or criminal justice agency concerning a person's detection, apprehension, arrest, detention, trial or disposition of an offense within the criminal justice system.” The purpose of an expungement is to provide a fresh start for individuals who have one or very few convictions.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF EXPUNGING MY RECORD?

When a person's criminal record is expunged, he or she can fill out school, job and housing applications truthfully without having to reveal that he or she was once arrested or convicted.

WHAT RECORDS CAN BE EXPUNGED?

Indictable offenses, disorderly person offenses, municipal violations, juvenile delinquency adjudications, juvenile records, certain drug offenses for young offenders and convictions that underwent a supervised treatment program, conditional discharge or conditional dismissal may be expunged provided that the adequate time has passed since the most recent conviction, payment of fine, satisfactory completion of probation or parole, or release from incarceration; whichever is later. Arrests not resulting in a conviction and special probation (Drug Court) may qualify for immediate expungement .

Under the Clean Slate law, a person's entire criminal record can be expunged if there have been no convictions for at least ten years, subject to certain conditions and criteria.

WHAT RECORDS CANNOT BE EXPUNGED?

Certain criminal convictions are deemed not expungable according to New Jersey law. These crimes includes homicide, kidnapping, most sex crimes, robbery, arson, terrorism, perjury and others as listed by statute. If a criminal record includes any of these types of convictions, the entire criminal record cannot be expunged.

DOES AN EXPUNGEMENT REMOVE MY CRIMINAL RECORD PERMANENTLY?

When a criminal record is expunged, law enforcement authorities are required to keep the record private. However, under limited situations the expunged records can still be considered by law enforcement agencies, such as when the person is later arrested, incarcerated, or applies for a job with a law enforcement agency.

HOW LONG DOES THE EXPUNGEMENT PROCESS TAKE?

It generally takes several months, depending on the county, from the time of the filing of the Petition for Expungement to the date of the hearing and the granting of the Expungement Order, if there is no objection to the expungement by the prosecutor or another party. In addition, there is wait of at least six months for the New Jersey State Police to confirm that the State Bureau of Identification Files and the Identification Division files of the FBI have been corrected to comply with the Expungement Order.

