



Sealing Your Juvenile Records

What are my “Juvenile Records”?

The **documents** and **Court Orders** in your juvenile court file which relate to your case. Some **juvenile records** might also be kept by the Probation Department, the Police or the District Attorney.

What does it mean to Seal my Juvenile Records?

“**Sealing**” means that records held by the police, the court, the District Attorney, and/or Probation will be treated as if they never existed. If someone asks about a “**sealed**” case, the law says the agency has to answer “there is no record of that matter.” When a matter is “**sealed**” you can say you were never arrested or adjudicated for that case. Sealing your record lets you start with a clean slate.

Note: A juvenile “**adjudication**” is **not** the same as a “**conviction**”. If you are asked on a job application if you were “**convicted**” of a crime, the truthful answer is “**no**” even if you have **not** sealed your record. However, felonies are public information and therefore, an employer will be able to see any felony on your record.

Note: Once your record is sealed by the court, you can say you have **never been arrested** of a crime. However, if your record is *not* sealed, you must answer yes.

Am I Eligible to Seal my Juvenile Record?

YES if: You are 18 years old **or**

You are not 18 years old **but** 5 years have passed since your probation ended. (Example: You finished probation at age 12 and you’re now 17)

You have not been convicted of a Felony or a “Crime of Moral Turpitude” since your last arrest or termination of probation. Moral Turpitude means a crime that is contrary to community standards for morals or honesty. For example, crimes involving fraud, theft, or drugs are considered crimes of moral turpitude.

Your case began and ended in Juvenile Court.

AND: There is no civil litigation regarding your Juvenile Court case.

NO if: You were at least 14 years old **and** adjudicated for a Welfare and Institutions Code 707(b) offense (a list is attached).

You cannot seal traffic matters or parking tickets.

How Do I Seal my Records?

You must file a **Petition to Seal Juvenile Records**. In Los Angeles County, the Petition can be requested by mail or in person. Send a written request and a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Eastlake Juvenile Court Clerk, Attn: Sealing Desk
1601 Eastlake Avenue, Room J
Los Angeles, CA 90033-1094

For cases that are from other counties, you need to call the **Clerk of the Court** for that County and ask for assistance with sealing your juvenile record. To fill out the Petition, you will need the following information:

1. **Case Number**
2. **JAI Number**
3. **Date of Arrest**
4. **Arresting Agency (LAPD, LA Sherriff, Pasadena PD, etc.)**
5. **Violation (PC 594, HS11550, VC 23152, etc.)**
6. **Disposition (HOP, SP, CCP, YA, etc.)**

To find this information, you have a few options. You can call the attorney who represented you or your attorney at one of the Juvenile Public Defender’s Offices. The attorney’s file will contain all the information you need to complete the petition. If many years have passed since your case, you may need to track down this information by contacting more than one place.

Your case number, JAI number, violation and disposition can be found at the Juvenile Clerk’s Office or the Juvenile Public Defender’s. For the clerk, you will need to make a request in writing or go in-person with an ID. You might be able to get the information over the phone from one of the Juvenile Public Defender’s Office.

You can access your **ARREST RECORD** (showing your arrest date and arresting agency) from the Eastlake Juvenile Court Clerk, or ANY JUVENILE COURT THAT HANDLED YOUR CASE, as well as your case number, location number and box number. Occasionally, this is enough to complete the sealing petition.

Other times, you need to go to Archives to access your **MINUTE ORDER**, a copy of the court records stating exactly what you were charged with and what the final outcome was of your case.

ARCHIVES
222 N. Hill Street, Room 212
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Located directly across from the Civic Center Metro stop

This can be a lengthy process, especially if many years have passed – TRY NOT TO GET FRUSTRATED!

Completed petitions should be hand-delivered (remember to keep a copy showing the date you filed the petition) to one of the following **Juvenile Courts**:

Eastlake 1601 Eastlake Ave. Los Angeles, CA 323-226-8945	Inglewood 110 E. Regent St. Los Angeles, CA 310-419-5268	Long Beach 415 W. Ocean Blvd. Long Beach, CA 562-491-5922	Los Padrinos 300 E. Quill Dr. Downey, CA 562-940-8823	Pasadena 300 E. Walnut St. Pasadena, CA 626-356-5757
Pomona 400 Civic Center Plaza Pomona, CA 909-620-3037	Compton 200 W. Compton Blvd. 310-603-7816	Sylmar 16350 Filbert St. Sylmar, CA 818-364-2108	Antelope Valley 1040 West Avenue J Lancaster, CA 661-949-6501	Juvenile Justice Center 7625 South Central Ave. Los Angeles, CA 323-586-6098

Your petition will be processed out of the court in which your hearings took place. If you had cases in multiple courts, you can submit your petition to seal at any of the above Juvenile Courts and your petition will be directed to the correct location.

I Filed my Petition, Now What?

The Clerk will schedule a date for the Judge to hear your Petition. It may take as long as a year for you to get a court date, particularly if your case is very old. You will be notified of the date by mail. It is **not** mandatory you attend, but if you can be there, you will have the opportunity to address any concerns which may be raised about your Petition. There may be no concerns raised, but unless you are there, you won't know. Some courts will know if your petition was granted at 4:15 PM the day before your hearing. Call and check!

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** to notify the court if you move!

If the court grants your Petition, your records will be sealed and all agencies which have evidence of your juvenile court history will be ordered to seal their records.

Aren't my Juvenile Records Sealed Automatically When I turn 18?

NO. Unless your case was handled as "Deferred Entry of Judgment" (aka "DEJ"), **you** must file a petition to have your records sealed.

Deferred Entry of Judgment happens when you admit a charge but you are not adjudicated. After 18 months, if you have completed all the conditions the Judge has ordered, the case is dismissed and the records are ordered sealed by the Judge that day. This happens only in court and only when your case is still open in Juvenile Court.

Can my Records be Unsealed?

- Insurance companies are permitted by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to look at these records and assess your insurance rates based on any existing motor vehicle violations.
- If you commit a crime that qualifies under California's "Three Strikes" law, your records can be unsealed and the information contained therein may be used to increase your sentence.
- If you file a suit against someone for "defamation of character", your records may be accessed.
- If you apply for employment with the government, these agencies will be able to access your records.

What if I'm Still on Probation?

- If you are still on Probation, make sure you have **your Court-Appointed Lawyer's information and your Probation Officer's and/or Social Worker's information.**
- Tell both your Lawyer and Probation Officer that you don't want to leave the system with felonies on your record. If you have some, ask if they can be reduced to a lesser offense before you exit care.
- Ask your Lawyer or Probation Officer to fill out a petition to seal NOW, because they will have all the required information. Try to hold on to that petition until you are eligible to have your records sealed. This will save you a lot of time and aggravation later!

Important Contact Information

Compton Juvenile P.D. (310) 603-7292	Eastlake Juvenile Court Clerk (323) 226-8926	Inglewood Juvenile P.D. (310) 419-5245
Sylmar Juvenile P.D. (818) 364-2133	Lancaster Juvenile Court Clerk (661) 949-6501	Long Beach Juvenile P.D. (562) 590-8573
Los Angeles Police Department (877) 275-5273	Los Padrinos Juvenile Court Clerk (562) 940-8823	Pasadena Juvenile P.D. (626) 356-5464
Pomona Juvenile P.D. (909) 868-6424		Arrest Record Requests: CA Dept. of Justice (916) 227-3849

Free Legal Help!

Alliance for Children's Rights 3333 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 550 Los Angeles, CA 90010 213-368-6010 www.kids-alliance.org	Wilshire-Metro Worksource Legal Assistance Program 3550 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 500 Los Angeles, CA 90010 213-365-9829
Homeboy Industries 130 W. Bruno St. Los Angeles, CA 90012 (323) 526-1254 www.homeboy-industries.org	Public Counsel 610 South Ardmore Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90005 213-385-2977 ext. 700 www.publiccounsel.org

Who Does Not Qualify to Have Their Juvenile Records Sealed?

With few exceptions, you **cannot** seal your record if you have committed any one of the following offenses when you were 14 or older:

- Murder (PC 187) or voluntary manslaughter (PC 193)
- Arson (PC 451)
- Robbery (PC 211) or bank robbery
- Rape with force, violence or threat of great bodily harm (PC 261)
- Sodomy by force (PC 286)
- Sexually inappropriate act on a child under the age of 14 by act of force (PC 288)
- Continuous sexual abuse of a child (PC 288.5)
- Sexual penetration or oral sex by force (PC 288a)
- Kidnapping for ransom (PC 209)
- Kidnapping for the purpose of robbery (PC 209)
- Kidnapping with bodily harm (PC 209)
- Attempted murder (PC 664)
- Assault with a deadly weapon (PC 245)
- Assault by means of force likely to produce great bodily injury* (PC 245)
- Discharge of a firearm into a building with people in it* (PC 12022.5)
- Any crime committed against a person 60 or older, blind persons, paraplegics, or quadriplegics (PC 667.9)
- Any felony offense in which a weapon listed in subdivision (a) of Section 12020 of the Penal Code was used
- Intimidation of victims or witnesses in violation of Section 136.1 or 137 of the Penal Code.
- Manufacturing or selling one-half ounce or more of a controlled substance specified in subdivision (e) of Section 11055 of the Health and Safety Code
- Any violent felony or any felony in which great bodily injury is inflicted as defined in subdivision (c) of PC 667.5, which would also constitute a felony violation of subdivision (b) of PC 186.22
- Escape, by use of force or violence, from any county juvenile hall (PC 4532)
- Torture (PC 206)
- Aggravated mayhem (PC 205)
- Carjacking (PC 215)
- Kidnapping, as punishable in Section 208 of the Penal Code
- Kidnapping during the commission of a carjacking (PC 209.5)
- Shooting from a vehicle* (PC 12022.55)
- Assault with intent to commit rape, robbery or oral sex (PC 220)
- Assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer (PC 241)

- Assault with a deadly weapon by an inmate (PC 241)
- Exploding a destructive device or any explosive with an intent to injure or murder (PC 12303.3)
- Any burglary in the first degree (PC 460)
- Selling heroin, cocaine, PCP or any methamphetamine-related drugs to a minor in violation of Section 11380 of the Health and Safety Code
- Grand theft involving a firearm (PC 487)
- Throwing acid or flammable substances* (PC 244)
- Assault with a deadly weapon against a public transit employee, custodial officer, or school employee (PC 241)
- Rape or sexual penetration in concert with another person (PC 264.1)
- Criminal threats* (PC 422)
- Mayhem (PC 203)
- Any felony or attempt to commit felony punishable by death or imprisonment in state prison for life
- Any felony in which the defendant inflicts great bodily harm upon a person or uses a firearm.
- Extortion (PC 518)
- Any conspiracy to commit an offense describe above
- Any "attempt" to commit a crime listed above

NOTE: Traffic violations or offenses and parking violations cannot be sealed.

*** Denotes wobblers, which can be reduced to misdemeanors and then sealed.**