



We help people recover from the criminal legal system.

# Justice & Accountability Center of Louisiana



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# EXPUNGEMENT

## ONLINE APPLICATION

Check your eligibility and complete your expungement petition online.

### OBTAINTHE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS LISTED BELOW:



Bill of Information



Court Minutes



Background Check



### JAC EXPUNGEMENT PROGRAM

JAC is a leader in the state in expungement practice, support, and advocacy. We provide free legal help to individuals seeking to get their records expunged. Help is provided at monthly expungement walk-in clinics. Subscribe to our newsletter to find out when our next expungement clinic is scheduled in your area. Read more below for additional resources and for information on how to file your own motion for expungement.

Email Address

First Name

Last Name

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### HISTORY

### HOW-TO GUIDES & FORMS

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## Expungement App

This app will help you determine whether or not you can get your criminal record expunged under Louisiana Law. Although **this app does not provide legal advice**, it can help you assess your potential eligibility for expungement and help you prepare for a meeting with an attorney. There is no charge to check your eligibility.

The app can also generate pre-filled forms to file for an expungement in court. It costs \$20 to download the forms. Click the button below to access the app.

[Expungement App](#)

### Louisiana Expungement Process!

Louisiana incarcerates more people than any other state in the country and more people than anywhere else in the world. Even an arrest that the District Attorney declines to prosecute will create a criminal record. Criminal records are often the basis for ! Widget Load



denying employment, even if the job at hand is unrelated to a previous arrest. Expungements seal records of the accused, but does not destroy them. Expungements open the door to finding work, housing, and employment that might otherwise be denied.

# Expungement How-To Guides

JAC has created several guides and checklists to assist individuals navigating the expungement system without an attorney. These resources are informational and are not legal advice. Always consult with an attorney about your particular situation. Special thanks to [HERO-Farm](#) for designing these materials.

## [EAST BATON ROUGE / CAPITAL AREA REGION](#)

Includes information for East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Ascension Parish, Livingston Parish, Pointe Coupee, Iberville and Tangipahoa Parishes.

## [SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA REGION](#)

Includes information for St. Tammany/Washington, Jefferson, and Orleans Parishes.

## [ORLEANS PARISH](#)

## [SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA REGION](#)

Includes information for Acadia, Calcasieu, Lafayette and Vermilion Parishes.

## [NORTH/CENTRAL LOUISIANA REGION](#)

Includes information for Caddo, Morehouse, Ouachita, Rapides Parishes.

## [NORTHEAST LOUISIANA REGION](#)

Includes information for Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, and West Carroll Parishes.

## [STATEWIDE GUIDE](#)

NEW! Don't see your parish listed above? [Download](#) the Statewide Edition How-To Booklet. It includes general instructions on expungements and is relevant to any parish.

## [2021 ANNUAL EXPUNGEMENT GUIDE](#)

JAC has updated our annual manual to include 2021 legislative changes. [Purchase](#) the 2021 manual. It includes changes like the "first offender pardon" expungement, our process maps, and a list of non-expungeable adult convictions.

## [2022 ANNUAL EXPUNGEMENT GUIDE](#)

JAC has updated our annual manual to include 2022 legislative changes. [Purchase](#) the 2022 manual. It includes changes like the "first offender pardon" expungement, our process maps, and a list of non-expungeable adult convictions.

## [2023 IN FORMA PAUPERIS EXPUNGEMENT GUIDE](#)

You may qualify for your expungement fees to be waived through the in forma pauperis "IFP" application based processes. We have attached the [IFP guidelines](#) here.

# Expungement Forms



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(Please note these forms are also available on the [Louisiana Clerks of Court Association](#) website.)

All expungements must include the following four (4) forms:

- [Motion for Expungement form](#)
- [Judicial Order form](#)
- [Affidavit of Response](#)
- [Order of Expungement](#)

Some expungements may require that the conviction be set aside and the prosecution dismissed, which will require the following forms:

- [Motion to Set Aside Conviction and Dismiss Prosecution](#)

If you were arrested for a felony and convicted of a misdemeanor and you are currently on probation for your misdemeanor, you can request an expungement of your felony arrest only with the following forms. Please note that after you complete your probation, you will need to request a second expungement for your conviction.

- [Interim Expungement Motion](#)

If your offenses do not fit in the spaces provided in the Motion for Expungement with required additional forms, you will need to include a supplemental sheet behind page 2 of your expungement motion.

- [Supplemental sheet for arrests that did not result in a conviction](#)
- [Supplemental sheet for misdemeanor convictions](#)
- [Supplemental sheet for felony convictions](#)

If you are eligible for a certificate waiving the \$550, you should use the following form and submit it to the District Attorney. The District Attorney must consent to the fee waiver and you must include this completed consent form with your expungement paperwork.

- [Certification for Fee Waiver for District Attorney](#)
- [Orleans Parish Certification for Fee Waiver](#)

## Expungement Clinics and Events

JAC hosts events regularly, although they are limited during COVID-19. For more information, please take a look at our [online calendar](#). Requests for events can also be sent to [info@JACLouisiana.org](mailto:info@JACLouisiana.org)

## Expungement FAQs

General1

What is an Expungement?

Once my record is expunged has it been erased forever?



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I cannot afford to pay the \$550 in court costs. Can I have the costs waived?

How long does the whole expungement process take?

I received a First Offender Pardon. Does that automatically expunge my record?

## HISTORY

In March 2008 a group of community activists crafted a day in which attorneys and advocates volunteered to provide expungements for the community. They created New Orleans's first city wide "Expungement Day." The doors were scheduled to open at 10 a.m., but the line outside the Tremé Center started to form at 7 a.m. As quickly as they could, they opened early to start consulting with the hundreds of people who needed their records sealed. The organizers anticipated closing at 4, but were forced to close several hours earlier to stop the flow of participants. By the end of the day, over 400 people had filtered into and out of the Tremé Center and almost 100 volunteers were left weary. The event made a big impact, but also provided the foundation for understanding the need for expungement services for the working poor.

Through their attendance, the participants defined a growing population. It is a population that has experienced persistent and pervasive policing, has been touched by the criminal justice system by virtue of an arrest; are skilled and valuable members of the workforce, are without access to opportunity, and a population that is relentlessly looking for sustainable employment. 2008 marked the year when hundreds of people converged in a place with a singular goal: employment.

Expungement is a key component in breaking the cycle of recidivism for non-violent defendants. Expungement facilitates access to economic opportunity for thousands of Louisianans, including predominantly African Americans who face persistent unemployment and exclusion from social advancement after arrest. Here, an arrest creates a permanent criminal record even if no criminal charges are instituted. Approximately 92% of all employers rely on criminal background checks when making hiring decisions. However, when a person is simply arrested in Louisiana, there is a decreased likelihood of future employment exacerbated by the stigmatization of a being labeled as a "criminal."

Here, an arrest creates a permanent criminal record even if no criminal charges are instituted. A permanent arrest record exists even if all charges are dismissed. Un-convicted defendants face substantial social and legal barriers in gaining or retaining employment (as do convicted defendants). Mass incarceration with its lingering stigmatization equates to a new "barrier-rich" Jim Crow system. Having a criminal record typically prevents a person from securing employment, enrolling in school and training programs, and securing affordable housing. Loss of housing frequently blocks an incarcerated person's ability to fully reunite with family members after release. Yet, employment, training, and family housing are essential for successful disengagement from the criminal justice system.

This stigma of criminalization leads creates burdensome societal costs: an individual's lost earnings, lower economic growth of the community/neighborhood, lower tax revenues for the city/state, and higher government spending on repeated incarcerations and other government expenses. Louisiana's recidivism rate has now reached 50%. However, an expungement for nonviolent defendants removes the stigmatization of a criminal record, enhances an individual's legitimate hope to find meaningful employment, and effectively serve in the role of "citizen" in a democratic society. The bottom line is that those who receive an expungement are less likely to recidivate when afforded the opportunity of employment.



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Submit your email for our newsletter. The JAC digital newsletter is published monthly. It will keep you updated on JAC news, triumphs, events, and updates. We do not share your email address with third parties. Rest assured your email is safe with us and is used for JAC updates only.  
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