

Criminal Record Expungement Project

Individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), and who have a criminal record that is preventing them from getting a job (or getting a better job), may be eligible for help getting their record expunged.

What is Expungement?

Expungement is the removal of records from public inspection. In Maryland, **no process expunges the records from all agencies**, but DRM may be able to help expunge court and police records.

The First Step: A short screening by DRM staff to determine eligibility

Staff will confirm benefit status (award letter) and investigate criminal history to determine eligibility for expungement based on the results of the official criminal record from CJIS and Maryland Judiciary Case Search.

- If the individual meets all of the requirements, staff will arrange a meeting, gather additional information, complete the required petitions and process in court.

The Second Step: In some circumstances you may be required to obtain a copy of your complete criminal record from CJIS

There is a central database that contains records of all criminal arrests and charges and the subsequent disposition for all jurisdictions in Maryland. **To obtain a copy of your record you must be fingerprinted and pay a record fee (currently \$38) at:**

Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS)
Reisterstown Plaza, Room 200
6776 Reisterstown Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21215
410-764-5160

The process can take 3-6 months to expunge a criminal record.

Under Maryland Law, charges are not automatically expunged. Arrests, charges, “not guilty” verdicts, and deferred prosecutions all stay on a person’s criminal record unless or until they are expunged. Guilty dispositions that are considered nuisance crimes are eligible for expungement.

DRM’s services are free for this project, clients must be eligible for SSI or SSDI benefits and their criminal record must be a barrier to employment.