
Your Guide to

EXPUNGEMENT

in South Carolina

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Disclaimer: You are encouraged to talk to an attorney before going forward with any legal process. See Appendix 3 of this packet for information on how to get an attorney. Clerks of court, judges, or other court staff cannot give you legal advice. This informational packet is not meant to provide legal advice or counsel. This packet is only for South Carolina cases. Expungement is different in each state. Expungement procedures and laws may be updated so the information in the packet is subject to change. Make sure the packet you have is current.

Step 1: What is expungement?

What does expungement do?



To get something expunged is to get it erased. By state law, you can apply to have certain arrests, charges, or convictions erased from your criminal record. This is called an expungement and is a court order that removes something from your criminal record.

How can an expungement help me?



Getting your record expunged can give you a better chance at getting a job or getting a professional license because your charge or conviction will no longer be on your South Carolina criminal record. Expungement can also help with getting housing and any other area where a criminal record can be a problem.

What can be expunged?



South Carolina expungements can only erase South Carolina charges or convictions. If you have a criminal record from another state you will have to find out what the laws are in that state and apply for expungement there. In South Carolina, only certain kinds of charges or convictions can be expunged. Typically, only minor offenses can be expunged. DUIs cannot be expunged. Crimes where you registered for the SC Sex Offenders Registry cannot be expunged. If you have other pending criminal charges that are less than five years old you cannot get an expungement. This packet will explain the different types of expungement and help you determine if you might be eligible for expungement.

How does an expungement happen?

To get a record expunged you should:

- *learn what expungement is.* This guide helps you do that.
- *figure out if your charge or conviction can be expunged.* Not all crimes can be expunged from your record. If your charge or conviction cannot be expunged you can look at getting a pardon instead.
- *see what the requirements are for the type of expungement that matches your situation.* Each type of expungement has its own set of requirements.
- *start the application process.* Expungements can be free or can cost up to \$310. How much it will cost will depend on the type of expungement you get. Some solicitors may have funding to cover up to half of the cost. These funds may be limited and are available on a first come first serve basis.

You do not have to have a lawyer for expungement. If you apply for an expungement on your own without a lawyer's help, you will be called a “self-represented litigant.” This is also called proceeding *pro se* (pronounced “pro say”). Both terms mean that you have decided to be your own lawyer.

Expungement can give you a fresh start. Expungement can also be complicated. This packet is meant to guide you through the process, but it cannot cover all situations. If you hit a roadblock, please ask for help. The additional resources page gives you suggestions on whom to contact for help. The next section will show the different types of expungement and help you decide if you match one of the types.

Note: The process described in this packet is for adult record expungement. Juvenile record expungement is similar, but not the same. Information about juvenile record expungement can be obtained from the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families, from the solicitor's office, or from the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice.

Step 2: What type of expungement do I need?

There are ten types of charges or convictions that may be eligible for expungement. Review the information below to see if your record matches one of the types. If you find a match, go to the page listed to learn more about that type of expungement. These apply retroactively. This means that even if the offense was not expungable when you were convicted, if it is now expungable and you meet the requirements then you are eligible.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Type 1 <i>not convicted</i></p> | <p>The charge was dismissed, not prosecuted (<i>nolle prossed</i>), <u>or</u> you were found not guilty. Go to page 6.</p> |
| <p>Type 2 <i>completed PTI</i></p> | <p>You successfully completed a Pre-Trial Intervention Program (PTI). Go to page 7.</p> |
| <p>Type 3 <i>completed TEP</i></p> | <p>You successfully completed a Traffic Education Program (TEP). Go to page 8.</p> |
| <p>Type 4 <i>completed AEP</i></p> | <p>You successfully completed an Alcohol Education Program (AEP). Go to page 8.</p> |
| <p>Type 5 <i>fraudulent check</i></p> | <p>You were convicted of a first offense misdemeanor for writing a fraudulent check <u>AND</u> in the one year since you were convicted, <i>you have not been convicted of another criminal charge</i>. Go to page 9.</p> |
| <p>Type 6 <i>simple possession</i></p> | <p>You have a record of first offense misdemeanor drug possession, you received a conditional discharge, <u>AND</u> you successfully completed the terms of the discharge. Go to page 10.</p> |
| <p>Type 7 <i>general misdemeanor</i></p> | <p>You were convicted of a crime with a <i>maximum penalty of 30 days or \$1000</i> <u>AND</u> in the three years since you were convicted, <i>you have not been convicted of another criminal charge</i>. <u>OR</u> five years without a conviction have passed since you were convicted of domestic violence in the third degree (previously known as CDV). Go to page 11.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Type 8 <i>youthful offender</i></p> | <p>You were convicted of a first offense under the Youthful Offender Act (YOA) <u>AND</u> you <i>have not been convicted of another criminal charge</i> in the five years since you completed your sentence. Go to page 12.</p> |
| <p>Type 9 <i>failure to stop</i></p> | <p>You were convicted of first offense failure to stop your vehicle for the police <u>AND</u> you <i>have not been convicted of another criminal charge</i> in the three years since you completed your sentence. Go to page 13.</p> |
| <p>Type 10 <i>human trafficking victim</i></p> | <p>You were a victim of human trafficking convicted of trafficking in persons <u>OR</u> prostitution <u>AND</u> your participation in the offense was a direct result of being a victim. Go to page 14.</p> |
| <p>Type 11 <i>Simple Possession or PWID</i></p> | <p>You were convicted of a first offense simple possession and in the 3 years since completing your sentence have had no convictions. <u>OR</u> if it is your first offense Possession With Intent to Distribute, 20 years from completion of your sentence and no convictions in that time. Go to page 15.</p> |

Step 3: What are the requirements for my type of expungement?

Type 1

Not Convicted

This type of expungement is only for records where there was no conviction. This is the easiest and cheapest (it's free!) type of expungement. There are three types of records that can be expunged under this law:

- A charge that was **discharged** or *nolle prossed* (not prosecuted).
- A charge that was **dismissed**.
- A charge where the person was found **not guilty**.

Important things you need to know about this type of expungement:

- It is free, *unless* your convictions were part of a plea bargain. If so, the regular fees may apply.
- If you meet the requirements, the court must expunge your record.
- This type of expungement does not apply to verdicts of “not guilty by reason of insanity.”

Other helpful information:

- *This type of expungement is for non-conviction records from higher courts like the Court of General Sessions.* If you have a non-conviction record from a Summary Court, like Magistrate Court or Municipal Court, from before June 2, 2009, you will have to apply to those courts for an expungement. For non-conviction records from June 2, 2009, or after: if **you were not fingerprinted**, you will need to apply to the appropriate Summary Court for an expungement; however, if **you were fingerprinted**, the record should have been expunged automatically, but you should check your record to be sure. Contact the Clerk of Court in that Summary Court’s county for more information. The application to apply for an expungement in Summary Court can be found at www.sccourts.org/forms/pdf/SCCA223E.pdf. The appropriate court order can be found at www.sccourts.org/forms/pdf/SCCA223B.pdf.
- Certain state and local agencies (like detention centers) may keep a sealed record for three years after you get this type of expungement. Those records may only be disclosed by court order or through a lawsuit. Anyone else who keeps a record that was supposed to be expunged is guilty of contempt of court. Law enforcement and prosecution agencies may keep the information indefinitely for certain purposes, while detention and correctional facilities must destroy the records after three years and one hundred twenty days, unless there is a valid reason to keep the records.

If you get this type of expungement, the court order will say:

§ 17-1-40. The charge was dismissed, *nolle prossed* or the defendant was found not guilty on

_____.

If you think you fit the requirements, go to **Step 4 on page 16** to learn how to apply for expungement.

This type of expungement is only for people who have successfully finished doing everything required by a pretrial intervention program. To get your record expunged:

- You must have **successfully completed a pretrial intervention program**. Upon completion of the program, the solicitor should have marked your charge as not prosecuted (*nolle prossed*).
- The PTI Director must confirm that you have completed your program and are eligible.

There is one important effect of this type of expungement:

- After the expungement process is completed, you will not have to admit to the charge you had expunged if you are asked about your record. This only applies to the part of your record you have expunged, not to any other charges or convictions.

If you get this type of expungement, the court order will say:

§ 17-22-150(a). The charge was *nolle prossed* on _____ by the Solicitor because the defendant successfully completed the Pre-Trial Intervention Program. (PTI Director must attest to eligibility for expungement).

If you think you fit the requirements, go to **Step 4 on page 16** to learn how to apply for expungement.

Type 3

Completed TEP

This type of expungement is only for people who have successfully finished doing everything required by a traffic education program. To get your record expunged:

- You must have **successfully completed a traffic education program**. Upon completion of the program, the solicitor should have marked your charge as not prosecuted (*nolle prossed*).
- The TEP Director must confirm that you have completed your program and are eligible.

If you get this type of expungement, the court order will say:

§ 17-22-330(A). The charge was *nolle prossed* on _____ by the Solicitor because the defendant successfully completed the Traffic Education Program. (TEP Director must attest to eligibility for expungement).

If you think you fit the requirements, go to **Step 4 on page 16** to learn how to apply for expungement.

Type 4

Completed AEP

This type of expungement is only for people who have successfully finished doing everything required by an alcohol education program. To get your record expunged:

- You must have **successfully completed an alcohol education program**. Upon completion of the program, the solicitor should have marked your charge as not prosecuted (*nolle prossed*).
- The AEP Director must confirm that you have completed your program and are eligible.

If you get this type of expungement, the court order will say:

§ 17-22-530(A). The charge was *nolle prossed* on _____ by the Solicitor because the defendant successfully completed the Alcohol Education Program. (AEP Director must attest to eligibility for expungement).

If you think you fit the requirements, go to **Step 4 on page 16** to learn how to apply for expungement.

This type of expungement is only for people who have been convicted of writing a fraudulent check as a first offense misdemeanor. To get your record expunged:

- The conviction you want to expunge must have been a **first offense fraudulent check misdemeanor**.
- One year** has passed since your conviction.
- During that year you have had **no other convictions, including out of state convictions**

Important things you need to know about this type of expungement:

- The conviction of a minor traffic-related offense punishable only by a fine or loss of points does not prevent expungement.
- This type of expungement cannot be used to remove a felony fraudulent check charge. Fraudulent check writing is a felony if the check is written for more than \$5000.
- If you meet the requirements, the court must grant the expungement.
- You can only get one expungement under the fraudulent check type. The state will keep a non-public record of what you have expunged so they can check your history if you apply again.

Other helpful information:

For this type of expungement, a guilty plea, a no contest (*nolo contendere*) plea, or the forfeiture of bail all count as a “conviction.”

If you get this type of expungement, the court order will say:

§ 34-11-90(e). The defendant was convicted of a first offense misdemeanor under the fraudulent check law on _____ and no additional criminal conviction as defined by § 34-11-90(e) has taken place in one year from date of conviction.

If you think you fit the requirements, go to **Step 4 on page 16** to learn how to apply for expungement.

This type of expungement is only for people who have been given a conditional discharge for a first offense drug possession charge. You must have completed all the terms of the conditional discharge, which may have included getting drug treatment or doing community service. To get your record expunged:

- The record you want to expunge must have been a **first offense misdemeanor for drug possession**.
- You must have **received a conditional discharge** from the court.
- You must have **fulfilled all of the terms** of the discharge.

Important things you need to know about this type of expungement:

- If you meet the requirements, the court must grant the expungement.
- The state will keep a non-public record of your expungement so that they can check your history in case of a new charge. By law, you can only receive one conditional discharge.
- After the expungement process is completed, you will not have to admit to the charge you had expunged if you are asked about your record. This only applies to the part of your record you have expunged, not to any other charges or convictions.

If you get this type of expungement, the court order will say:

§ 44-53-450(b). The defendant, who has not previously been convicted of any offense under Article 3, Chapter 53, Title 44 or any offense under any state or federal statute relating to marijuana, stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogenic drugs, successfully completed all terms of and received a conditional discharge of possession of a controlled substance under Section 44-53-370(c) and (d), or Section 44-53-375(A).

If you think you fit the requirements, go to **Step 4 on page 16** to learn how to apply for expungement.

Type 7 *General Misdemeanor*

This type of expungement covers misdemeanors that have a maximum sentence of \$1000 and/or 30 days, as well as first offense domestic violence in the third degree. To get your record expunged:

- The conviction you want to expunge must be a **first offense of a misdemeanor**.
- The misdemeanor must have a **maximum possible sentence of \$1000 and/or 30 days**.
- Three years** has to have passed since your conviction or **five years** if it was for **first offense domestic violence in the third degree**.
- During those three years you had **no other convictions, including out of state convictions**.
- The Summary Court Judge must confirm that your charge is eligible for expungement.

Important things you need to know about this type of expungement:

- Please note that convictions for **domestic violence in the third degree** before June 4, 2015, were called **criminal domestic violence (CDV)**.
- The conviction of a traffic-related offense punishable only by a fine or loss of points does not prevent expungement.
- You can only get one expungement under the general misdemeanor type. The state will keep a non-public record of what you have expunged so they can check your history if you apply again.
- If you have multiple offenses coming from the same incident and received sentencing for them at the same time, they may count as one conviction for expungement

Other helpful information:

- You will have to find out what the maximum sentence is for your offense. For example, you may have been sentenced to 30 days, even though the judge could have given you 60 days by law. Check the additional resources page to find out who can help you look up this information if you do not know.
- For this type of expungement, a guilty plea, a no contest (*nolo contendere*) plea, or the forfeiture of bail all count as a “conviction.”
- There are some convictions that cannot be expunged by this type. These are the exceptions:
 - An offense involving the operation of a motor vehicle (Title 56).
 - An offense contained in Chapter 25, Title 16, which includes all domestic violence offenses, except for first offense domestic violence in the third degree.

If you get this type of expungement, the court order will say:

§ 22-5-910. The defendant was convicted of a first offense in magistrate, municipal or general sessions court for a crime carrying a penalty of not more than 30 days imprisonment or a fine of \$1,000, or both, on _____, that offense did not involve an offense involving the operation of a motor vehicle, and no additional criminal conviction as defined by §22-5-910 has taken place within three years from date of conviction or five years from the date of conviction for first offense criminal domestic violence (conduct occurring prior to June 4, 2015) or third degree domestic violence under §16-25-20. (Summary court judge must attest to eligibility if disposed of in that court.)

If you think you fit the requirements, go to **Step 4 on page 16** to learn how to apply for expungement.

This type of expungement is only for people who have been convicted under the Youthful Offender Act. Your criminal record will identify a conviction under the Youthful Offender Act with a “YOA.” To get your record expunged:

- The conviction you want to expunge must have been a **first offense under the Youthful Offender Act (YOA)**.
- Five years** has to have passed since you **completed your sentence**. Completion of your sentence includes finishing probation and parole.
- During those five years you had **no other convictions, including out of state convictions**.

Important things you need to know about this type of expungement:

- The conviction of a minor traffic-related offense punishable only by a fine or loss of points does not prevent expungement.
- You can only get one expungement under the youthful offender type. The state will keep a non-public record of what you have expunged so they can check your history if you apply again.

Other helpful information:

- For this type, a guilty plea, a no contest (*nolo contendere*) plea, or the forfeiture of bail all count as a “conviction.”
- If you have multiple offenses coming from the same incident and received sentencing for them at the same time, they may count as one conviction for expungement.
- If you were convicted of a crime covered by the Youthful Offender Act and would have been eligible as a youthful offender (age 17 but less than 25), even if you were not sentenced under the Youthful Offender Act, you may be eligible for this expungement if the crime occurred before June 2, 2010.
- Some convictions cannot be expunged by this type. These are the exceptions:
 - An offense involving the operation of a motor vehicle.
 - An offense that is classified as a violent crime. You should not have been convicted as a youthful offender if you committed one of these crimes.
 - An offense contained in Chapter 25, Title 16, which includes all domestic violence offenses.
 - An offense that requires registration under the South Carolina Sex Offender Registry Act.

If you get this type of expungement, the court order will say:

§ 22-5-920. The defendant was convicted of a first offense as a youthful offender on _____, that offense did not involve the exceptions enumerated in § 22-5-920, and no additional criminal conviction as defined by §22-5-920 has taken place during a five-year period following completion of his sentence, including probation and parole as a youthful offender.

If you think you fit the requirements, go to **Step 4 on page 16** to learn how to apply for expungement.

This type of expungement is only for people who have been convicted of a first offense for failure to stop for “blue lights.” This is the only traffic offense that can be expunged. To get your record expunged:

- The conviction you want to expunge must have been a **first offense for failure to stop a motor vehicle when signaled by law-enforcement vehicle.**
- Three years** has to have passed since you completed all of the terms and conditions of your sentence.
- During those three years you can have had **no other convictions, including out of state convictions.**

Important things you need to know about this type of expungement:

- The conviction of a minor traffic-related offense punishable only by a fine or loss of points does not prevent expungement.
- You can only get one expungement under the failure to stop type. The DMV will keep a non-public record of what you have expunged so they can check your history if you apply again.
- This type of expungement does not apply to any felonies. That includes second offense “failure to stop for a law enforcement vehicle” and “failure to stop for a law enforcement vehicle” where a death occurs.

If you get this type of expungement, the court order will say:

§ 56-5-750(F). The defendant was convicted of a misdemeanor first offense failure to stop motor vehicle on _____ and no additional criminal conviction has taken place for three years after completion of the sentence.

If you think you fit the requirements, go to **Step 4 on page 16** to learn how to apply for expungement.

This type of expungement is only for people who are victims of human trafficking and, as a direct result of being a victim, have been convicted for either human trafficking or prostitution. To get your record expunged:

- You must be a victim of human trafficking.
- You must have been convicted of **human trafficking**, as defined in § 16-3-2020, OR you must have been convicted of **prostitution**.
- Your participation in the offense(s) you wish to be expunged must be a **direct result of being a victim**.

Important things to know about this type of expungement:

- Your record will inform you if you were convicted of human trafficking under § 16-3-2020 or if you were convicted of prostitution.

If you think you fit the requirements, go to **Step 4 on page 16** to learn how to apply for expungement.

This type of expungement is only for people who have been convicted of simple possession or possession with intent to distribute as a first offense. To get your record expunged:

- The conviction you want to expunge must have been a **first offense simple possession or possession with intent to distribute drugs conviction.**
- 3 years** has passed since completion of your sentence for simple possession or **20 years** has passed since completion of your sentence for your possession with intent to distribute conviction.
- During that time you have had **no other convictions, including out of state convictions.**

Important things you need to know about this type of expungement:

- The conviction of a minor traffic-related offense punishable only by a fine or loss of points does not prevent expungement.
- You can only get one expungement under this type. The state will keep a non-public record of what you have expunged so they can check your history if you apply again.
- If you have multiple offenses coming from the same incident and received sentencing for them at the same time, they may count as one conviction for expungement

Other helpful information:

- For this type of expungement, a guilty plea, a no contest (*nolo contendere*) plea, or the forfeiture of bail all count as a “conviction.”

If you think you fit the requirements, go to **Step 4 on page 16** to learn how to apply for expungement.

Step 4: How do I apply for expungement?

Getting an expungement is a step-by-step process. It is the job of the solicitor's office to help you with this process. Each step will be explained below with the information you will need to know. This is how it works:

What do I need to have?

You will need:

- ✓ your **criminal record**
- ✓ the **application**
- ✓ any **required records**
- ✓ three **money orders**

What do I need to do?

You will need to:

- ✓ get a copy of your criminal record from SLED
- ✓ figure out what type of expungement you will use
- ✓ get the application from the solicitor's office
- ✓ ask the solicitor's office what records you will need
- ✓ get the records and fill out the application
- ✓ get the required money orders
- ✓ submit the application and money orders to the solicitor's office

These steps give you the information you need to successfully get through the expungement process:

Step 1: Get a copy of your criminal record from SLED. This record will help you figure out what you can get expunged and where you need to go to get it expunged. To get your record go to www.sled.sc.gov and click "SLED Catch." If you have problems, call the Records Check department at (803) 896-1443. A SLED record costs \$25.

Step 2: Figure out what type of expungement you will use. Use your criminal record to see if you might be a match for one of the types of expungement listed in this packet. If you think you might be able to get an expungement, now is a good time to figure out the cost (see next page) and start saving money to pay the fees. Think about putting aside a little money each week.

Step 3: Get the application from the solicitor's office. To get a charge or conviction expunged you must apply in the county where the charge or conviction was put on your record. Each county is part of a circuit, and each circuit has a solicitor. This packet has a list of the counties and solicitors to help you figure out which office to contact. Once you decide which solicitor's office to contact, get a copy of their application for expungement. You may be able to print the application from their webpage, get the application by fax, or you may need to go their office in person to get a copy. The application should have a form you fill out for the solicitor's office, as well as the court order you want the judge to sign. It is called an "Order for the Destruction of Arrest Records."

Step 4: Ask the solicitor's office what records you will need. Each solicitor's office has a person who handles expungements. See the list included in this packet. When contacting the solicitor's office, ask to talk to that person or someone else who can help you with an expungement. Ask that person any questions you have, including what records or documents you will need to complete your application and how to get them.

Step 5: Get the records and fill out the application. Follow the instructions the solicitor's office gives you for getting any records you need. Once you have the records, fill out the application you got from the solicitor's office. Make sure everything is correct. The address you put on the application will be where they send your expungement if you get it, so it is very important that this address is one where you will get mail over the next few months.

Step 6: Get the required money orders. The money orders you need depend on the type of expungement. No cash or personal checks are accepted. The table below shows the fees that are charged for each type of expungement. Be sure to check with the solicitor's office to make sure these are the fees they charge for your type of expungement.

| <u>Expungement Type</u> | Solicitor Fee | SLED Fee | Clerk of Court Fee | Total Fees |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1: Not Convicted* | <i>No fee</i> | <i>No fee</i> | <i>No fee</i> | <i>None</i> |
| 2: Completed PTI | \$250.00 | <i>No fee</i> | \$35.00 | \$285.00 |
| 3: Completed TEP | \$250.00 | <i>No fee</i> | \$35.00 | \$285.00 |
| 4: Completed AEP | \$250.00 | <i>No fee</i> | \$35.00 | \$285.00 |
| 5: Fraudulent Check | \$250.00 | \$25.00 | \$35.00 | \$310.00 |
| 6: Simple Possession | \$250.00 | <i>No fee</i> | \$35.00 | \$285.00 |
| 7: General Misdemeanor | \$250.00 | \$25.00 | \$35.00 | \$310.00 |
| 8: Youthful Offender | \$250.00 | \$25.00 | \$35.00 | \$310.00 |
| 9: Failure to Stop | \$250.00 | \$25.00 | \$35.00 | \$310.00 |
| 10: Human Trafficking Victim | \$250.00 | \$25.00 | \$35.00 | \$310.00 |
| 11. Simple Possession/PWID | \$250.00 | \$25.00 | \$35.00 | \$310.00 |

Some solicitor's offices do not keep their fee until they know you are eligible, but they don't have to do that. You should get the clerk of court fee back if you are not eligible.

You must have a separate money order for each fee.

Step 7: Submit the application and money orders to the solicitor's office. This is the last step for you. Once you have completed the application and have the money orders you need, submit them to the solicitor's office. The solicitor's office will then review your application and determine if you are eligible. If you are, they will send your application to a judge. If the judge signs the order, you will get a copy of it in the mail. Because your application has to be reviewed by several people, it could take a few weeks or a few months for you to find out the result.

*The normal fees will be charged if your non-convictions were part of a plea bargain agreement.

Step 5: What happens after I get an expungement?

After a judge has signed your expungement order there are still a few more things to do. These last few steps will help make sure that your record has been erased everywhere.

First, make sure that the record you had expunged has been removed from your SLED record. To do this, order another copy of your record from SLED. The contact information for SLED is in Step 1 on page 13.

Second, check the public index to make sure the record is gone from there as well. You can find the public index at www.sccourts.org/caseSearch. Click the county for the record you expunged and accept the terms. You may have to choose which court the record was from and then type your name into the form. Although you may see entries for other things (such as an eviction or traffic ticket) you should not see the entry for the record you had expunged.

Third, make sure that your record has been expunged in commercial databases. Many employers and landlords use commercial background check services. These services may not have the same records as SLED, or keep their records up-to-date with expungement orders. To help fix this issue, send a copy of your expungement order to the Foundation for Continuing Justice. Here's what to do:

1. **Get a certified copy of your expungement order** from the Clerk of Court in the county where your record was expunged. This copy must be certified and must have a raised seal. Do not send the copy of your expungement that you received in the mail after the judge signed it. Keep that copy for yourself.
2. **Go to www.continuingjustice.org/our-projects/criminal-database-update/**. Read through the page and click “form” at the very bottom. Download the .pdf application. Print the application. Fill in the requested information and mail the application and the certified copy of your expungement order to the address on the application. It will take approximately one month for the Foundation for Continuing Justice to process your application.

Note: Commercial background check services are not always as careful as government agencies like SLED. There may be mistakes in a background check that they produce. Mistakes are most common on the records of people with a common name.

Going forward...

Generally, after you have received an expungement you no longer have to admit to whatever you had expunged. If what you had expunged was the only thing on your criminal record and a job application asks you if you have a criminal record, you can now answer “no.” Only the laws for types 2 and 5 specifically say that you cannot be charged with perjury or giving a false statement for denying an expunged record, but this is generally considered true.

There are certain special circumstances where you may have to disclose a record that has been expunged. One situation could be applying to join the military. If you have questions about this issue, you may want to talk to an attorney. Information about how to contact an attorney who can help you is in Appendix 3 of this packet.

Appendix 1: Finding the Right Solicitor's Office

You must apply for expungement through the solicitor's office in the county where the charge or conviction was put on your record. Each solicitor's office handles two or more counties that form a judicial circuit. The lists below show the counties by their circuit number and then the contact information for each circuit.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1: Calhoun, Orangeburg, Dorchester | 9: Berkeley, Charleston |
| 2: Aiken, Barnwell, Bamberg | 10: Oconee, Anderson |
| 3: Lee, Sumter, Clarendon, Williamsburg | 11: McCormick, Saluda, Lexington, Edgefield |
| 4: Chesterfield, Marlboro, Darlington, Dillon | 12: Florence, Marion |
| 5: Kershaw, Richland | 13: Pickens, Greenville |
| 6: Chester, Lancaster, Fairfield | 14: Allendale, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper, Beaufort |
| 7: Spartanburg, Cherokee | 15: Horry, Georgetown |
| 8: Laurens, Newberry, Abbeville, Greenwood | 16: York, Union |

1st Circuit Solicitor: David M. Pascoe, Jr.

Mailing: 140 N. Main St., Suite 102, Summerville, SC 29483 *Phone:* 843-871-2640
Dorchester: 5200 E. Jim Bilton Blvd., St. George, SC 29477 *Fax:* 843-871-2643
Orangeburg: P.O. Box 1525, Orangeburg, SC 29116 *Email:* dpascoe@scsolicitor1.org
Calhoun: 120 Mill Street, St. Matthews, SC 29135 *Website:* www.scsolicitor1.org

2nd Circuit Solicitor: J. Strom Thurmond, Jr.

Mailing: Post Office Drawer 3368, Aiken, SC 29802 *Phone:* 803-642-1557
Aiken: Room 117, 109 Park Avenue SE, Aiken, SC 29801 *Fax:* 803-642-7530
Barnwell: P.O. Box 845, Barnwell, SC 29812 *Email:* solicitor@aikencountysc.gov
Bamberg: N/A
Website: <https://www.aikencountysc.gov/DspDept.php?qDeptID=SOL>

3rd Circuit Solicitor: Earnest A. "Chip" Finney, III

Mailing: 141 N. Main St., Sumter, SC 29150 *Phone:* 803-436-2185
Lee: N/A *Fax:* 803-436-2236
Sumter: 141 N Main St., Sumter, SC 29150 *Email:* sol3rd1@sumtercountysc.org
Clarendon: N/A
Williamsburg: 125 West Main Street, Kingstree, SC 29556
Website: www.sumtercountysc.org/?q=department/solicitors-office

4th Circuit Solicitor: William B. "Will" Rogers, Jr.

Mailing: P.O. Box 616, Bennettsville, SC 29512 *Phone:* 843-479-6516
Chesterfield: N/A *Fax:* 843-479-6519
Marlboro: 110 N. Liberty Street, Bennettsville, SC 29512 *Email:* willrogers@solicitor4.com
Darlington: N/A *Website:* N/A
Dillon: N/A

5th Circuit Solicitor: Brian Gipson

Mailing: P.O. Box 192, Columbia, SC 29202 *Phone:* 803-576-1800
Richland: 1701 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201 *Fax:* 803-576-1718
Kershaw: 1121 Broad Street, Camden, SC 29020 *Email:* johnsonda@rcgov.us
Website: www.scsolicitor5.org (this website contains information on expungement)

6th Circuit Solicitor: Randy E. Newman, Jr.

Mailing: PO Box 607, Lancaster, SC 29721 *Phone:* 803-416-9367
Chester: 140 Main Street, 4th Floor, Chester, SC 29706 *Fax:* 803-286-7776
Lancaster: PO Box 607, Lancaster, SC 29721 *Email:* Randy.newman@scsolicitor6.org
Fairfield County: N/A *Website:* N/A

7th Circuit Solicitor: Barry J. Barnette

Mailing: 180 Magnolia St., Spartanburg, SC 29306 *Phone:* 864-596-2575
Spartanburg: 180 Magnolia St., Spartanburg, SC 29306 *Fax:* 864-596-2959
Chester County: N/A *Email:* mglenn@spartanburgcounty.org
Website: <http://www.spartanburgcounty.org/162/7th-Circuit-Solicitor> (this website contains information on expungement)

8th Circuit Solicitor: David M. Stumbo

Mailing: P.O. Box 516, Greenwood, SC 29648 *Phone:* 864-942-8800
Laurens: N/A *Fax:* 864-942-8830
Newberry: N/A *Email:* dstumbo@greenwoodsc.gov
Abbeville: N/A
Greenwood: Suite 203 Park Plaza, 600 Monument St., Greenwood, SC 29649
Website: www.scsolicitor8.org (this website contains information on expungement)

9th Circuit Solicitor: Scarlett A. Wilson

Mailing: 101 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29401 *Phone:* 843-958-1900
Charleston: Wallace Bldg., 101 Meeting St., Charleston, SC 29401 *Fax:* 843-958-1905
Berkeley: 300-B California Avenue, Moncks Corner, SC 29461 *Email:* solicitor@scsolicitor9.org
Website: www.scsolicitor9.org (this website contains information on expungement)

10th Circuit Solicitor: Christina T. "Chrissy" Adams

Mailing: P.O. Box 8002, Anderson, SC 29622 *Phone:* 864-260-4046
Oconee County: 450 South Pine St., Walhalla, SC 29691 *Fax:* 864-260-4187
Anderson County: 100 South Main St., Anderson, SC 29624 *Email:* N/A
Website: www.soli10th.com

11th Circuit Solicitor: Donald V. "Donnie" Myers

Mailing: 205 E. Main St., Lexington, SC 29072 *Phone:* 803-785-8352
McCormick: N/A *Fax:* 803-785-8255
Saluda: N/A *Email:* N/A
Lexington: 205 E. Main St., Judicial Center, Lexington, SC 29072 *Website:* N/A
Edgefield: N/A

12th Circuit Solicitor: E.L. "Ed" Clements, III

Mailing: 180 North Irby Street, Florence, SC 29501 *Phone:* 843-665-3091
Florence: 180 North Irby Street, Florence, SC 29501 *Fax:* 843-669-3947
Marion: 1305 North Main Street, Marion, SC 29571 *Email:* ljackson@florenceco.org
Website: www.florenceco.org/elected-offices/solicitor

13th Circuit Solicitor: W. Walter Wilkins, III

Mailing: 305 East North Street, Greenville, SC 29601 *Phone:* 864-467-8282
Pickens: 214 E. Main Street, Pickens, SC 29671 *Fax:* 864-467-8270
Greenville: 305 East North St., Greenville, SC 29601 *Email:* sbrown@greenvillecounty.org
Website: www.greenvillecounty.org/solicitor (this website contains information on expungement)

14th Circuit Solicitor: Isaac McDuffie "Duffie" Stone, III

Mailing: P.O. Box 1880, Bluffton, SC 29910 *Phone:* 843-255-5880
Allendale: 292 Old Allendale Highway, Allendale, SC 29812 *Fax:* 843-255-9512
Colleton: 101 Hampton Street, Walterboro, SC 29488 *Email:* N/A
Hampton: 80 Elm Street, Hampton, SC 29924
Jasper: 198 Second Avenue, Ridgeland, SC 29936
Beaufort: 102 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, SC 29902 and 39 Sheridan Park Circle, Suite 2 Bluffton, SC 29910
Website: www.scsolicitor14.org (this website contains information on expungement)

15th Circuit Solicitor: Jimmy A. Richardson, II

Mailing: P.O. Box 1688, Georgetown, SC 29442 *Phone:* 843-915-5460
Horry: N/A *Fax:* 843-915-6460
Georgetown: 401 Cleland Street, Georgetown, SC *Email:* N/A
Website: www.georgetowncountysc.org/solicitor/default.html

16th Circuit Solicitor: Kevin S. Brackett

Mailing: 1675-1A York Highway, York, SC 29745 *Phone:* 803-628-3020
York: 1675-1A York Highway, York, SC 29745 *Fax:* 803-628-3025
Union: P.O. Box 60 Union, SC 29379 *Email:* N/A
Website: www.scsolicitor16.org

Appendix 2: Solicitor's Office Staff Who Work on Expungement

| CIRCUIT/COUNTY | CONTACT NAME | PHONE NUMBER | EMAIL |
|--|--|--|--|
| First Judicial Circuit | | | |
| (Orangeburg and Calhoun) (Dorchester) | Donna Cuttino Stacey Cook | 803-533-6115 843-871-2640 | dcuttino@scsolicitor1.org scook@scsolicitor1.org |
| Second Judicial Circuit | | | |
| (Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell) | Deborah Truesdale Sylvette Holston | 803-642-1557 803-642-1512 | dtruesdale@aikencountysc.gov sholston@aikencountysc.gov |
| Third Judicial Circuit | | | |
| (Clarendon, Sumter, Williamsburg, Lee) | Michelle Potts | 803-436-2192 | mpotts@sumtercountysc.org |
| Fourth Judicial Circuit | | | |
| (Chesterfield, Marlboro, Darlington, Dillon) | Angie Thurman | 843-479-6516 | angiethurman@solicitor4.org |
| Fifth Judicial Circuit | | | |
| (Richland, Kershaw) | Dawn Sloan | 803-576-1824 | sloand@rcgov.us |
| Sixth Judicial Circuit | | | |
| (Chester, Fairfield) (Lancaster) | Ann Hardee Julie Small | 803-377-1141 803-416-9391 | ann.hargee@scsolicitor6.org julie.small@scsolicitor6.org |
| Seventh Judicial Circuit | | | |
| (Spartanburg, Cherokee) | Cherri Cook | 846-562-4498 | ccook@spartanburgcounty.org |
| Eighth Judicial Circuit | | | |
| (Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, Newberry) | Angela Roland | 864-942-8813 | aroland@greenwoodsc.gov |
| Ninth Judicial Circuit | | | |
| (Charleston) (Berkeley) | Charles Young Tamra Gentry | 843-958-2023 843-719-4529 | youngc@scsolicitor9.org gentryt@scsolicitor9.org |
| Tenth Judicial Circuit | | | |
| (Anderson, Oconee) | Tasha Bridwell | 864-222-6694 | tbridwell@solli10th.com |
| Eleventh Judicial Circuit | | | |
| (Lexington, Edgefield, McCormick, Saluda) | Davant Keenan | 803-785-8197 | dkeenan@lex-co.com |
| Twelfth Judicial | | | |
| (Florence, Marion) | Candy Rogers | 843-665-3091 | chrogers@florenceco.org |
| Thirteenth Judicial Circuit | | | |
| (Greenville) (Pickens) | Tracy Starkes Jeannie Abercrombie | 864-467-8723 864-898-5628 | tstarkes@greenvillecounty.org jabcrombie@greenvillecounty.org |
| Fourteenth Judicial Circuit | | | |
| (Beaufort) (Hampton, Allendale) (Jasper) (Colleton) | Lina Delahunty Shannon Horton Shannon Horton Shannon Horton | 843-255-5880 843-914-2175 843-717-4061 843-549-2192 | l.delahunty@bcgov.net s.ferrill@bcgov.net s.ferrill@bcgov.net s.ferrill@bcgov.net |
| Fifteenth Judicial Circuit | | | |
| (Horry) (Georgetown) | Melissa Cox Jennifer Todd | 843-915-5365 843-545-3171 | mcox@horrycounty.org jtodd@georgetowncounty.org |
| Sixteenth Judicial Circuit | | | |
| (York, Union) | Ann Melton | 803-628-3028 | Ann.melton@yorkcountygov.com |

Dated 2016, from www.sctbar.org.

Appendix 3: Additional Resources

If, after reviewing this packet, you need additional help, these are some places to look:

To find more information on expungement and pardons

The South Carolina Courts
Expungement Application Process
[http://www.sccourts.org/expungementInfo/
expAppProcessGS.cfm](http://www.sccourts.org/expungementInfo/expAppProcessGS.cfm)

To find legal help or a lawyer

South Carolina Legal Services
Toll Free: 888-346-5592
Phone: 803-744-9430
Fax: 803-744-9450
www.sclegal.org

The South Carolina Bar
Lawyer Referral System
800-868-2284
[www.scbar.org/
publicservices/findalawyer.aspx](http://www.scbar.org/publicservices/findalawyer.aspx)

To find more information on the legal system in South Carolina

The South Carolina
Judicial Department
www.sccourts.org

Law Help
for South Carolina
www.lawhelp.org/SC

To get a copy of your criminal record

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED)
Records Department
Post Office Box 21398
Columbia, SC 29221
803-896-1443
www.sled.sc.gov

SLED's FAQ on Criminal Records and Expungement
www.sled.sc.gov/documents/CJIS/RecordsCheck&ExpungementFAQ.pdf

To find more information on expungement, pardons, or other issues relating to fatherhood

The South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families
2711 Middleburg Drive, Suite 111
Columbia, SC 29204
803-227-8800
www.scfathersandfamilies.com