

Youth Records:

**How Records
Can Affect Youth
Even After the Case is Over**



My juvenile record
will just disappear
when I turn 18

COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS

I won't have to tell
anyone about my
juvenile record

No one will ever
find out about my
juvenile record

COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES OF JUVENILE ADJUDICATIONS IN MISSISSIPPI



RECORDS

- ◎ **Youth court records**
 - Limited confidentiality
- ◎ **Police records**
 - Limited confidentiality
- ◎ **DMV records**
- ◎ **DNA & fingerprint records**

EMPLOYMENT

- ◉ **Denial of employment**
- ◉ **Driver's license suspension**
- ◉ **Professional or occupational license exclusion**



EDUCATION

- ◎ **Reentering local school**
- ◎ **Credit transfer from a juvenile facility to local school**
- ◎ **School discipline**
- ◎ **Special education**
- ◎ **Missing days at school**

EDUCATION

The Common Application for College:



Have you ever been **adjudicated guilty** or convicted of a misdemeanor or felony? Note that you are not required to answer “yes” to this question, or provide an explanation if the **criminal adjudication** or **conviction** has been expunged, sealed, annulled, pardoned, destroyed, erased, impounded or otherwise **required by law** or ordered by a court **to be kept confidential**.

HOUSING

- ◎ **Denial of housing**
 - Federal Regulations
 - Local Regulations
- ◎ **Eviction**
- ◎ **Homelessness**



OTHER

- ◎ **Sentencing enhancements**
- ◎ **Sex offender registration**
- ◎ **Fees, fines, and restitution**
- ◎ **Immigration**



**WHAT CAN
WE DO TO
HELP?**

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Make sure clients are connected to legal and social services:

- **Education**
- **Employment**
- **Housing**
- **Benefits**
- **Sealing & Destruction**
- **Debt/Credit**

SEALING

- **Discretionary**
 - **In the State's and Child's best interests**
- **Eligibility:**
 - **At least 20 years old OR**
 - **Youth court dismissed the cause OR**
 - **Youth court sets aside adjudication**
- **No definition as to effect**

DESTRUCTION

- **Discretionary**
- **Physical destruction**
- **Requires approval of the director of the department of archives and history**
- **No definition as to effect**

CLIENTS SHOULD KNOW HOW TO PROPERLY ANSWER...

- ⦿ **Have you ever been convicted of a crime?**
- ⦿ **Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Convicted of a misdemeanor?**
- ⦿ **Have you ever been arrested?**
- ⦿ **Have you ever been on probation?**

TIPS FOR CLIENTS: TALKING ABOUT YOUR JUVENILE RECORD

- **No need** to talk about juvenile record UNLESS asked about juvenile adjudications
- Emphasize how you've made **better choices** since, and focus on your **positive qualities**
- If you must explain, be **very brief** (few details) and **avoid blaming others**
- Sometimes it's hard to talk about past events — **practice** with a friend or mentor to make sure you feel comfortable
- Get a **letter of recommendation** from someone who can assure the employer or college that you are a good candidate

QUESTIONS

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