

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, SENECA COUNTY, OHIO**  
**JUVENILE DIVISION**  
**JUDGE JAY A. MEYER**

**NOTICE REGARDING SEALING AND EXPUNGEMENT OF RECORDS**  
**Ohio Revised Code, §2151.356(D)(2) and Juvenile Rule 34(J)**

Because you were charged with an offense as a juvenile, Ohio Law may allow you to have your juvenile record sealed or expunged. The following is an explanation of the process that you must follow to seal or expunge your record.

- You may apply to this Juvenile Court for an order to seal your record six (6) months after:
  - a. Termination of any order or Contract made by the Court in relation to charges or,
  - b. Unconditional discharge from DYS/other facility in relation to a dispositional order.
  - c. The Court enters a sex offender declassification order.*\*Six month waiting period does not apply if applicant is age 18 or older.*
- “Seal a record” means to have your juvenile file removed from the Court’s main sector of records and placed in a separate location that is accessible only by specific people under ORC 2151.357(E).
- Applying to seal your record doesn’t automatically mean that it will be sealed. The Juvenile Court must find:
  - a. That you have been rehabilitated to a satisfactory degree.
  - b. That the harm from disclosure outweighs potential benefits of public access.
  - c. That the Prosecutor doesn’t object.
- If the Prosecutor objects or the Court finds it necessary, a hearing will be held.
- If your offense was aggravated murder, murder, or rape your record cannot be sealed.
- If your record is sealed by the Juvenile Court and someone asks you if you have a record, you may properly reply that no record exists. If asked, the Court will also reply that no record exists. It is as if the proceedings never occurred.
- The Court may, upon its own motion, seal your record upon the conclusion of your involvement with the Court, after proper notice is given, no objections are filed or a hearing occurs, and the Court considers the public’s interest in keeping the record open, in the following matters: records from cases when a juvenile is held in custody but never charged; records from cases that were resolved before charges are filed, or were filed but later dismissed; records from a case that was referred into a diversion program, or, in unruly cases where the child turns 18 with no other pending delinquency matters.
- After your record has been sealed, your record will automatically be expunged after a period of five (5) years or when you reach age 23, whichever occurs sooner. You may apply to the Juvenile Court to have your sealed record expunged sooner.
- How is “expunging” a record different from “sealing a record”? “Expunge a record” means to destroy, delete, and erase a record, as appropriate for the record’s physical or electronic form or characteristic. This means that the record is permanently irretrievable and destroyed.
- You may obtain an application to either seal or expunge your record from the Juvenile Court Clerk’s Office at Seneca County Juvenile Court, 103 E. Market St., Tiffin OH or online at [www.senecajpcourt.com](http://www.senecajpcourt.com). There is no cost associated with this filing, but you must have all fines, Court costs, and restitution paid and all Court program requirements, Diversion program requirements, and any other Court Orders complied with and completed before submitting your application.
- You may wish to read portions of the Ohio Revised Code §2151.355, §2151.356, §2151.357, and §2151.358 for further details.