



Proposed Act Concerning the Automatic Erasure of Records in Delinquency and Family with Service Needs Matters

The juvenile justice system is intended to be rehabilitative and give youth a second chance.

This proposed legislation would ensure that juvenile records are automatically erased and destroyed for delinquent youth who have not been involved in the system for two years.

This legislation would not change erasure procedures for juveniles convicted of Serious Juvenile Offenses (existing law would continue to apply).

- Current law allows youth to petition to have their records erased but many families are unaware of the procedure. This creates **vast racial, ethnic and socioeconomic disparities** between children who do and do not have their records erased.
- **Records of juvenile delinquency, though confidential, still negatively impact youth.** They are often **accidentally or inadvertently reported**, resulting in negative outcomes and the exclusion of these youth from educational or employment opportunities that would otherwise be open to them.
- Although the majority of youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system do not enter the criminal adult system, the **impact of juvenile offenses follows them with negative collateral consequences** for much of their lives.
- **Automatic record erasure will protect youth** (except those classified as Serious Juvenile Offenders) who have been involved with the juvenile justice system from any inadvertent disclosure that could cause future harm.
- Youthful offenders, who have committed crimes that are more serious, **already have the benefit of automatic erasure of their record** when they reach the age of 21 years old, if they have not subsequently been convicted of a felony; **youth convicted of much less serious juvenile offenses should be extended this benefit as well.**
- **Funding** to implement the software needed to automatic erasure **has already been allocated.**

Contact: Attorney Marisa Halm
mhalm@cca-ct.org