

HOW TO START AND RUN AN EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- We wanted to amplify this service and find ways to address barriers.
- Began Planning Job and Resource Fairs
- We created Job Resource Kits
 - USB Drive
 - How to Set Up an Email
 - Free Printing Coupons
 - Library Services
 - Weekly Job Sheets
 - Practice Application



WHAT IS EXPUNGEMENT?

- “Expungement is the process by which a record of criminal conviction is destroyed or sealed from state or federal record. An expungement order directs the court to treat the criminal conviction as if it had never occurred, essentially removing it from a defendant’s criminal record.” (American Bar Association)
- Though similar, it is not a pardon.
- Each state has its own laws about eligibility.
- Each state also has its own laws about which offenses may be expunged.
- Example: Driving offenses are not expungable in all states.

WHY EXPUNGEMENT?

- The National Conference of State Legislatures estimates 1 in 3 American adults has a criminal record. (<https://www.ncsl.org>)
- A Michigan study shows that in the first year after record clearing, the probability of employment rose by 6.5%, wages rose by about 22%, and recidivism dropped to roughly 4%. (Gullen, 2018)
- A California study found that participants who expunged their records showed an average increase in yearly income of \$6,190, and 93% of participants reported confidence in their future job prospects. (Gullen, 2018)

Outreach to
community

Relationship
with volunteer
lawyers

Technology for
connection to
happen

Space for
connection to
happen

Back and forth
with volunteer
lawyers

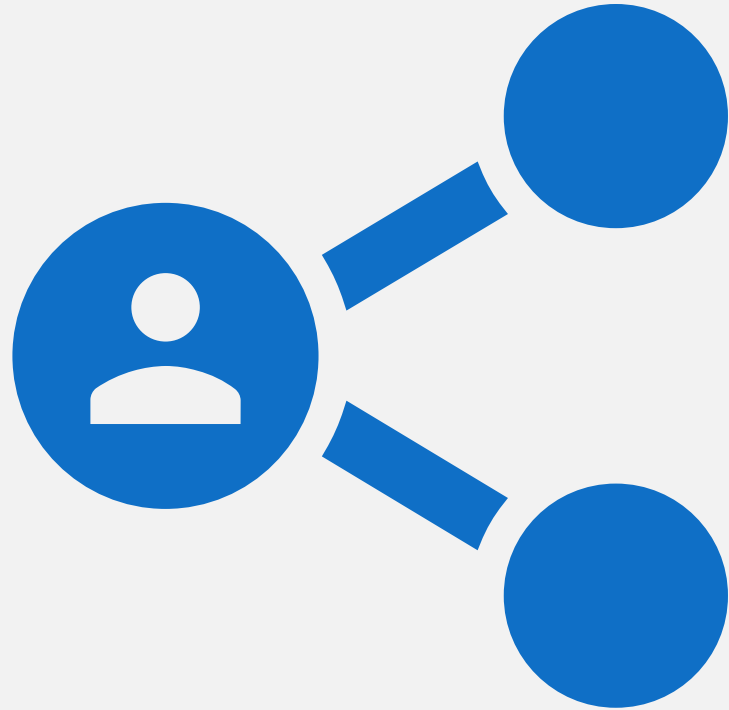
Paperwork
organization

WHAT LIBRARY PROVIDES

RESPONSES FROM PATRONS

- “Feeling a bit of relief, job hunting will be less stressful.”
- “The attorney was very helpful and explained everything.”
- “It was good to be able to talk to someone that can help you with your situation.”
- “I participated so I could move forward and get this off my record.”





THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Start with your administrator to get buy in.
- Know your population; what time and space would be most convenient?
- Find volunteer lawyer organization
- Consider space and technology

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RESOURCES

- “50-State Comparison: Expungement, Sealing & Other Record Relief.” *Collateral Consequences Resource Center*, <https://ccresourcecenter.org/state-restoration-profiles/50-state-comparison-judicial-expungement-sealing-and-set-aside-2/>
- *Americanbar.org*, <https://www.americanbar.org/>
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- “Expungement Attorney Resources.” *MVLS*, 16 Nov. 2021, <https://mvlslaw.org/expungement-attorney-resources/>
- Gullen, Jamie. *Life Changing Impact of Expungements - Free Legal Help*. Community Legal Services of Philadelphia, Sept. 2018, <https://clsphila.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Life-Changing-Impact-of-Expungements-1.pdf>
- Prescott, J.J., and Sonja B. Starr. “Expungement of Criminal Convictions: An Empirical Study.” *Harvard Law Review SSRN Electronic Journal*, vol. 133, no. 8, 2020, pp. 2460–2555., <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3353620>
- Umez, Chidi and Rebecca Pirijs. “Improving Access to Licensed Occupations for Individuals With Criminal Records.” *Barriers to Work: People with Criminal Records*, National Conference of State Legislatures, 17 July 2018, <https://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/barriers-to-work-individuals-with-criminal-records.aspx>