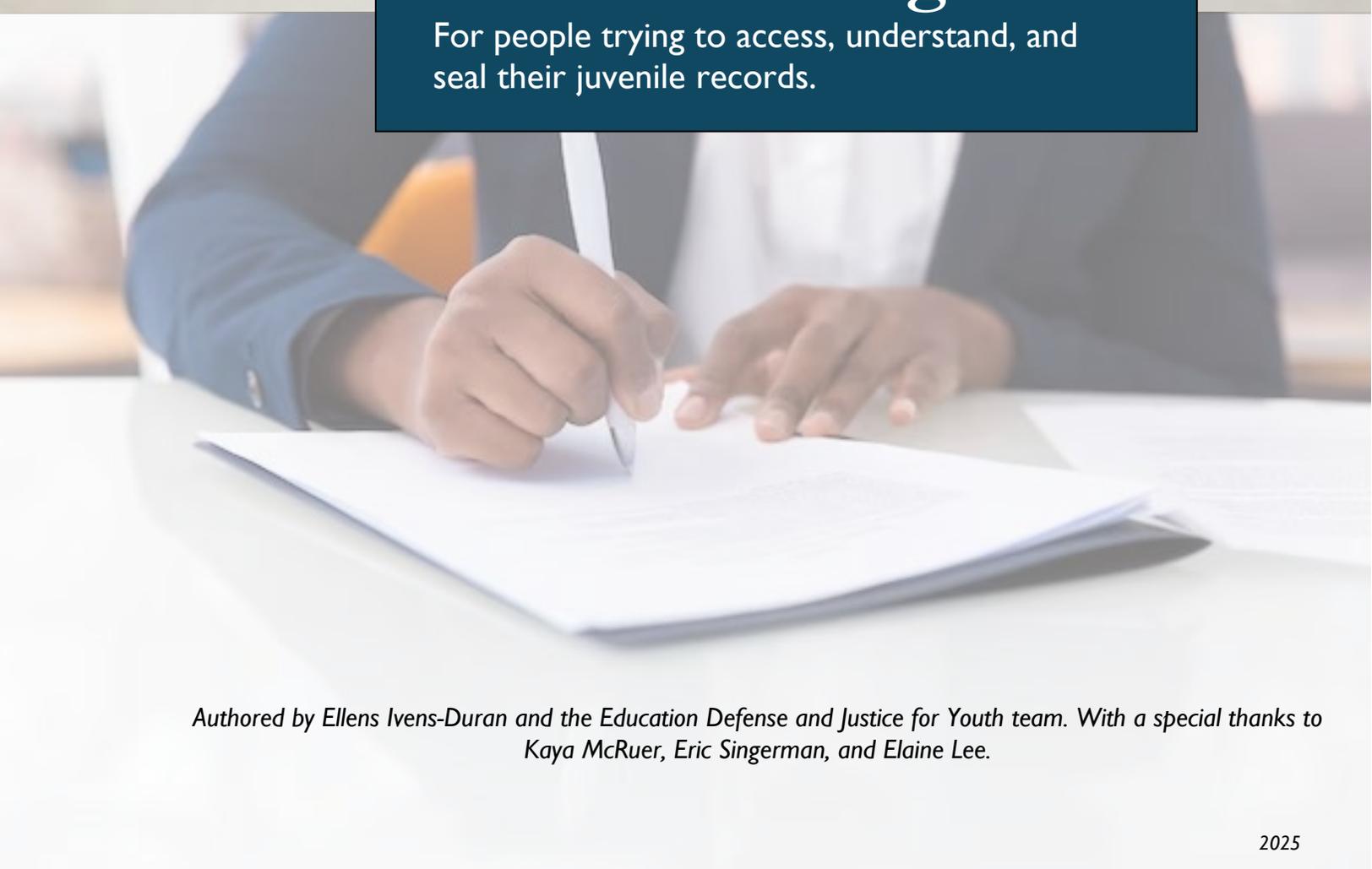




California Juvenile Record Sealing

For people trying to access, understand, and seal their juvenile records.



Authored by Ellens Ivens-Duran and the Education Defense and Justice for Youth team. With a special thanks to Kaya McRuer, Eric Singerman, and Elaine Lee.

Contents

1. What is my juvenile record?.....	2
Frequently asked questions	2
2. How can I access my juvenile record?	4
Your RAP Sheet	4
Other Records.....	5
3. How do I read my RAP sheet?.....	6
Sample juvenile RAP sheet	8
4. Can potential employers see my juvenile record?	10
5. How do I seal my juvenile record?	13
Overview of juvenile dismissal and sealing options	13
Can I seal juvenile arrests?	13
My record was already sealed. Why is it still showing up?.....	14
Side by side comparison of Welfare and Institutions Code sections 781, 786, and 782.....	15
6. How can I ask the court to seal records of my juvenile strike?.....	18
7. What about my federal record, or FBI RAP?.....	22
8. Conclusion.....	25

Disclaimer: The following information is not legal advice and may not reflect changes in the laws around juvenile record sealing. This document is intended to help people understand laws and resources around juvenile record sealing as of May 2025. If you have questions, you may want to consult an attorney. If you cannot locate an attorney, you should refer to current versions of resources like the California Courts self-help page,¹ forms put out by the California Court system, and the laws² discussed in this guide. Thanks to the EDJY team for their invaluable support in putting this guide together.

¹ <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/juvenile-justice/seal-record>.

² https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=WIC&division=2.&title=&part=1.&chapter=2.&article=20.

1. What is my juvenile record?

Your juvenile record may contain information about:

- law enforcement contacts and arrests that happened when you were under 18;
- juvenile court cases;
- time on juvenile probation;
- commitments to juvenile hall, Secure Track/Secure Youth Treatment Facility, California Youth Authority (CYA), or the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).³

Note: Whether a court or probation record is considered a “juvenile” record has more to do with what court your case was in than how old you were. Juvenile courts may keep young people on probation or in an out-of-home placement past when they turn 18. As long as the case was in juvenile court, the juvenile rules apply. Similarly, some people may have gone to adult court for conduct that happened before they turned 18. Those records wouldn’t be subject to the juvenile rules because they are adult criminal cases.

Frequently asked questions

Q: Wasn’t my record sealed when I turned 18?

Not necessarily. Since 2015, the law has allowed ‘automatic’ sealing of certain juvenile records when a judge determines a young person has successfully completed their probation. This law (Welfare and Institutions Code section 786) is discussed at length in Question 5 (“[How do I seal my juvenile record?](#)”). However, **not all juvenile records are automatically sealed.** For instance, an arrest that did not lead to a court case may remain on a juvenile record until a court orders it sealed. There is also an exception for certain offenses. A serious felony offense, such as assault with a deadly weapon, committed when someone was over 14 cannot ‘automatically’ sealed under Welfare and Institutions Code section 786 unless it is first dismissed or reduced to a misdemeanor. Lastly, sometimes even if a court did order a juvenile record sealed, the paperwork that effectuates the court’s order doesn’t get filed properly or sent to everyone, resulting in incomplete sealing.

You may want to read on if:

*you successfully completed juvenile probation before 2015

*you did not successfully complete juvenile probation

*you were arrested as a juvenile but you weren’t referred to diversion and no case ever went to juvenile court

*your case involved a juvenile strike or “707(b)” offense

*the judge ordered your juvenile record sealed, but it is still showing up

*you think your juvenile record is impacting job applications

³ Both CYA and DJJ are now closed. CYA closed in 2005 and DJJ closed in 2023. You can read more about that process in the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice’s resource: [Juvenile Corrections Reform in California](#).

This resource is informational and current as of May 2025. It is not legal advice. If you have questions, you should consult an attorney.

In 2025, a new law (Welfare and Institutions Code section 788) went into effect. The legislature and juvenile defenders hope that this law will result in more people having their juvenile records sealed without any action on their part. The new law, Welfare and Institutions Code section 788, requires juvenile probation departments to start the sealing process on behalf of people with juvenile records under certain circumstances. You can read the law [here](#). In some cases, however, you will still need to actively ask for juvenile record sealing from the court.

Q: Isn't my juvenile record confidential, whether it was sealed or not?

Most juvenile proceedings are confidential and juvenile case information is protected by laws requiring confidentiality (like Welfare and Institutions Code section 827). However, there are situations where a juvenile record may not be kept confidential. For example:

- If you are trying to join the armed forces or if you apply for a federal job, your would-be employer may be able to see and consider your juvenile record. There's more information about employer access to juvenile records in Question 4 ("[Can potential employers see my juvenile record?](#)").
- If you are trying to get a firearm license, the California Department of Justice may be able to access records, even records that have been sealed under Welfare and Institutions Code section 786, to see if you are eligible.
- If you are trying to get clearance to visit someone in a jail or prison, they may ask you about your record. If you have a juvenile record that has not been sealed and you fail to report it—sometimes the issue is as small as an arrest on which no charges were filed—it may delay your clearance.

Q: Can I even do anything about my juvenile record?

Likely yes! There are opportunities to reduce the impact of and/or seal most juvenile records.

Note: The law is changing all the time – in both good and bad ways. You should consult an attorney or the most recent version of the laws mentioned here to ensure you have the most up-to-date information.

2. How can I access my juvenile record?

Your RAP Sheet

The California Department of Justice maintains juvenile and criminal record information on people. If you want to see what information they have about you, request your Record of Arrests and Prosecutions or “RAP” from them. The Department of Justice has instructions for both current California residents and people with a California history who now live out of state.

Note: the version of the RAP you will get is not necessarily the same as what would show up on a background check. It likely will include more information than a standard background check would. In fact, you will probably see an instruction at the top of the RAP that says it should not be used for employment or licensing purposes.

Requesting your DOJ RAP sheet if you live in California

Note: Getting fingerprinted involved an administrative fee, which you can request a waiver of (see step 2 below). Many Live Scan providers also charge a fingerprint rolling fee, which is separate and cannot be waived. You may be able to find a local nonprofit or public defender’s office that offers Live Scan services.

You can request your RAP from the California Department of Justice by following the steps below.

1. Complete the “Request for Live Scan Service” form which is located at: <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/BCIA-8016RR.pdf>. **DO NOT sign the document until you’re at Live Scan.**
2. Take the completed form to one of the authorized Live Scan locations found at: <https://oag.ca.gov/fingerprints/locations>. You may want to call the location to ask what their ‘fingerprint rolling fee’ is. This is different from the administrative fee that the DOJ requires of people without a fee waiver (**see if you qualify for a DOJ fee waiver** here: <https://oag.ca.gov/fingerprints/record-review/fee-waiver>).
3. You must bring your **California driver’s license or identification card** and the completed “Request for Live Scan Service” form when you get fingerprinted.
4. The Live Scan Operator will require you to pay the administrative fee (unless you have been granted a fee waiver) plus the fingerprint rolling fee. The operator will then take your fingerprints and electronically submit them to the Department of Justice.
5. The Live Scan Operator **should give you a copy** of your “Request for Live Scan Form,” which will have an “Automated Transmitting Identification” (ATI) number. Please **keep this copy** and use the ATI number to track your request if there are any issues.
6. You should receive your RAP sheet in the mail within a month. If you wish to check the status of your record request, have your ATI number ready. You can email the DOJ at recordreview@doj.ca.gov or call the DOJ at (916) 227-3835 with the ATI number to track your RAP sheet. As a reminder, the ATI number can be found on the copy of the Request for Live Scan Service form the fingerprint roller gives back to you.

This resource is informational and current as of May 2025. It is not legal advice. If you have questions, you should consult an attorney.

Requesting your DOJ RAP sheet if you live outside of California

If you do not live in California, your process will look different. Please refer to the information for out of state residents provided by the California Department of Justice (<https://oag.ca.gov/fingerprints/record-review>) or Clear My Record (<https://www.clearmyrecord.org/get-your-rap-sheet/>).

Other Records

Court records

You might be able to get more specific information about juvenile court records that have not yet been sealed by going to the clerk's office of the courthouse where your juvenile case happened. You can ask the clerk's office to let you view or make copies of court records, which include details about the charges, any reports that juvenile probation wrote, and summaries of each court date. They are much more detailed than the RAP. If something looks wrong on your RAP, you may want to access your court records to confirm.

Some clerk's offices will charge for copies of your record and, if your record is old or has been sealed, you may need to take additional steps to access your court records.

FBI records

In Question 7 ("[What about my federal record, or FBI RAP?](#)"), there is more detailed information about getting and correcting the records maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigations or FBI. **Please note that non-citizens should consult with an immigration attorney before making any decisions that might impact or highlight your immigration status, including requesting your FBI RAP.**

3. How do I read my RAP sheet?

As a reminder, your RAP sheet is maintained by the California Department of Justice. It lists every arrest, court case, and conviction/finding⁴ that the DOJ knows about, from any county in California. It also has information like AKAs or previous names and even jobs someone has applied for that required a background check. RAP sheets can be hard to read. There are online resources, like this one from Cornell University's Criminal Justice and Employment Initiative:

<https://cjei.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/inline-files/How%20to%20Read%20a%20California%20Department%20of%20Justice%20Criminal%20History%20Report%20%28RAP%20Sheet%29.pdf> that may help. Online resources often focus on deciphering criminal entries on a person's RAP, so we have included one that highlights what juvenile RAP entries might look like.

If a judge orders your juvenile record sealed, the judge will order that the police, probation, and others eventually destroy any paperwork related to the sealed juvenile cases and/or arrests from your RAP. The judge's order should include the California DOJ, which means the arrest(s) and or case(s) should stop being reported on your RAP. This is not true for adult clean slate relief, which most often results in the arrest or case remaining on your RAP and a notation being added that relief has been granted.

Sex Offender Registration

A person's RAP will often indicate if they are required to register with the sex offender registry. There is more information about sex offender registration here: <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/clean-your-record/sex-offender-registration>. Traditional juvenile record sealing currently cannot be the reason a court allows someone to stop registering. If you are required to register as a sex offender, not doing so can have serious consequences.

Controlled Substance Registration

Another type of registration that occasionally appears on someone's RAP is a "controlled substance" registration requirement. This registry no longer exists, but sometimes the requirement still shows up due to administrative errors. If you notice it on your RAP sheet, you can email the sex offender registry email (casex-reg@doj.ca.gov) and say:

My RAP sheet contains a registration requirement listed as an "11590 MS- Registration CNTL Sub Offender." The law under which this registration was listed was repealed in 2019 and all registration requirements were terminated January 1, 2020. The DOJ issued guidance at that time, which can be found here:

https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/info_bulletins/19-06-cjis.pdf. I would like to correct my record. Please provide documentation that I can attach to a record correction

⁴ Convictions refer to adult criminal cases. In juvenile court, we do not use the word "conviction" because juvenile court proceedings are not criminal. Instead, we use the word "finding" or "adjudication." A juvenile finding may have some collateral consequences, but it is not the same thing as an adult criminal conviction.

This resource is informational and current as of May 2025. It is not legal advice. If you have questions, you should consult an attorney.

request to remove this notation from my RAP sheet, or in the alternative, communicate directly with the record review unit to have that correction made.

An annotated juvenile RAP sheet can be found on the following pages.

If you have requested your own RAP, it will have this note. Sometimes, you will be able to see things on your RAP that would not show up on a background check run by someone else.

DO NOT COLLECT DNA. DNA SAMPLE HAS BEEN RECEIVED, TYPED, AND UPLOAD INTO THE CAL-DNA DATA BANK. FOR INFO (510) 620-3300 OR PC296.PC296@DOJ.CA.GOV

** PALM PRINT ON FILE AT DOJ FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE E-MAIL PALM.PRINT@DOJ.CA.GOV

** III CALIFORNIA ONLY SOURCE RECORD

CII/A000000

DOB/19941202 SEX/M RAC/BLACK

HGT/500 WGT/127 EYE/BRO HAI/BLK POB/CA

CTZ/UNITED STATES

NAM/001 DOE, JOHN

002 DOE, JONATHAN

This first part of the RAP has demographic information

The RAP will list any known variations of the person's name

MON/SONIC

FBI/40000MCO

DMV/D000001

SOC/111112222

INN/CDC-AB01342

SMT/TAT CHEST-UNKNOWN

; TAT L ARM-UNKNOWN

OCC/NONE NOTED; STUDENT;

UNEMPLOYED

* * * *

The FBI collects information from different states to make their own RAPs. This number can be helpful if you want to address the presence of an incident on someone's FBI RAP

Dates are written YYYYMMDD

ARR/DET/CITE:

NAM:001 DOB:19941202

20090428

CASO OAKLAND

This is a clue about where the event took place (in this case, likely Oakland)

CNT:001

#01J011111-JFN

602 WI-JUVENILE:MINOR UNDER 18 YEARS

10851(A) VC-TAKE VEH W/O OWN CONSENT/VEH THEFT

TOC:F

20090501

DISPO:PROS REL-DET ONLY LACK OF SUFF EVID

ARR BY:CATD PD BART OAKLAND

These are clues this event was a juvenile event - look for "602", "Juvenile", "JV", "WI" ("Welfare and Institutions Code') throughout

CNT:002

-602 WI-JUVENILE:MINOR UNDER 18 YEARS

12020(A) (1) PC-MANUFACTURE/POS DANG WPN/ETC

TOC:F

20090501

DISPO:PROS REL-DET ONLY LACK OF SUFF EVID

This indicates which law enforcement agency arrested the person (here, BART Police). This information may allow you to fill out forms like a JV 595 accurately.

For each count, there is a "dispo", or disposition, listed. For this arrest, and the five counts associated with it, the prosecution decided not to continue with the case because they didn't have enough evidence

CNT:003

-602 WI-JUVENILE:MINOR UNDER 18 YEARS

12025(A) (1) PC-CCW IN VEHICLE 20090501

TOC:M

DISPO:PROS REL-DET ONLY LACK OF SUFF EVID

Each count should have the "TOC" aka type of crime (F=felony, M=misdemeanor, I=infraction). Here it's a felony

CNT:004

-602 WI-JUVENILE:MINOR UNDER 18 YEARS

12031(A) (1) PC-CARRY LOAD F/ARM:PUB:SPEC CIRC

TOC:F

20090501

DISPO:PROS REL-DET ONLY LACK OF SUFF EVID

Each count should have the alleged law violated/crime. Here it's Penal Code (PC) section 12031(A)(1)

CNT:005

-602 WI-JUVENILE:MINOR UNDER 18 YEARS

148(A) PC-OBSTRUCTS/RESISTS PUBLIC OFFICER/ETC TOC:M
20090501
DISPO:PROS REL-DET ONLY LACK OF SUFF EVID
ADR:20060428 (10 MAIN AVE, , , OAKLAND, CA, 94600)
SCN:D3161190203

In this case, there were no court proceedings resulting from this arrest on any of the five counts. You can tell because the disposition listed is "detention only, lack of sufficient evidence" and because there is no court entry related to these arrests.

* * * * * ← These stars separate different events from each other. Everything between stars is one event.

ARR/DET/CITE: NAM:002 DOB:19941202
20090718 CAPD SAN FRANCISCO

CNT:001 #J901332-90371
182(A) (1) PC-CONSPIRACY:COMMIT CRIME TOC:F

CNT:002
186.22(A) PC-PARTICIPATE IN CRIM STREET GANG TOC:F

CNT:003
211 PC-ROBBERY:SECOND DEGREE TOC:F
SCN:94561920026

COURT: NAM:001
20090817 CAJV ALAMEDA

← Unlike the previous arrest, this one resulted in a case that went to court. These dashes indicate that the RAP sheet is moving from arrest information (above) to court information (below). It is all one "event"

CNT:001 #SJ0611893-01
212.5(C) PC-ROBBERY:SECOND DEGREE TOC:F
DISPO:DISMISSED

← This tells you what county the court case happened in. Here it's the juvenile court in Alameda.

CNT:002
12020(A) PC-POSSESS/MFG/SELL DANGEROUS WPN/ETC TOC:F
DISPO:DISMISSED

CNT:003
136.1(C) PC-PRVNT/DISSUADE WIT/VIC FORCE/ETC TOC:F
DISPO:DISMISSED

← While the first three counts were dismissed, the court put this person on juvenile probation for counts 4 and 5. Certain types of probation make people "wards of the court", which is why the disposition listed here starts with "wardship". In the delinquency context, a ward of the court is someone on formal probation, who is being supervised by the delinquency system.

CNT:004
186.22(A) PC-PARTICIPATE IN CRIM STREET GANG TOC:F
DISPO:WARDSHIP
COM: MISD

CNT:005
245(A) PC-ADW OR FORCE:POSS GREAT BODILY INJ TOC:F
DISPO:WARDSHIP
COM: FEL, 52 MOS PROB, OTHER PROG, FINE, COST
* * * * *

APPLICANT NAM:003
: 20130205 CASG CCC LOS ANGELES, LOS ANGELES

← RAP Sheets can give information unrelated to juvenile or criminal history, such as a record of jobs that require background checks.

CNT:001
APPLICANT STATE EMPLOYEE TOC:N
SCN:K88B0234440 ATI-M036BDD001

20140104
DISPO:NO LONGER INTERESTED
ACN:DOJ30149412A156
* * * * *

4. Can potential employers see my juvenile record?

Most of the time, private employers may not access the juvenile records of potential employees. This means the California Department of Justice (DOJ) should not provide juvenile records to employers or to private companies that do background checks (often known as Consumer Reporting Agencies, or CRAs), and those private companies should not include juvenile offenses when researching legal records for their reports. It also means that employers should not ask applicants about their juvenile records. There are some exceptions, including certain careers, such as law enforcement, health care, and certain financial services, where a juvenile criminal history inquiry may be permitted. State laws also do not apply to federal employers, like the federal government or the military, who get their information from the FBI rather than the California DOJ.

Juvenile court cases result in “adjudications,” not convictions. Someone who only had cases in juvenile, not criminal, court can honestly say that they have no criminal convictions even if their record has not been sealed.⁵ It is important to remember, however, juvenile adjudications (or even arrests!) are sometimes wrongly listed or understood as convictions. They may be wrongly disclosed to employers. This section discusses when a juvenile record may be visible to an employer and what you can do if your juvenile records were wrongly disclosed.

1. Wait...aren't juvenile records confidential?

Yes and no. Unlike adult criminal records or court hearings, which are publicly accessible, most juvenile hearings are closed to the public and juvenile records are confidential in most instances.⁶ The biggest exception is that the public can observe a case where the charge is a more serious felony, what we call a 707(b) offense.⁷ These more serious 707(b) offenses are different from less serious felonies and misdemeanors in a lot of ways. For instance, records of 707(b) offenses also are not subject to the ‘automatic’ sealing law (Welfare and Institutions Code section 786) discussed elsewhere.

2. What do I say about my juvenile record when a job application asks about prior convictions? Does it depend on whether I went to court or was on probation?

If a job application specifically asks whether you have been convicted of a crime, and your only court cases were in juvenile court, the answer is the same whether your record is sealed or not: no. A juvenile “adjudication” is not considered a conviction for purposes of employment. If the question asks about arrests or court cases, not specifically convictions, the answer may depend. Although

⁵ Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 203; Cal. Lab. Code § 432.7(3)(B).

⁶ Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 676 (“the public shall not be admitted to a juvenile court hearing . . . [However,] members of the public shall be admitted, on the same basis as they may be admitted to trials in a court of criminal jurisdiction, to hearings concerning petitions filed . . . by reason of the violation of any one of the [§ 707(b) offenses]”); Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 827 (limiting access to juvenile records).

⁷ A list of these “707(b)” offense can be found in Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 707, subsection (b):

https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=707.&lawCode=WIC.

These offenses are special because prosecutor can ask the juvenile court judge to let them take the juvenile into adult criminal court if they commit one (or more) of these offenses and are 14 or older. Before Proposition 57 changed the law in 2016, prosecutors didn’t even have to ask the judge – they could “direct file” serious cases against juveniles in criminal court instead of starting in juvenile court.

many employers are not allowed to ask about your juvenile record, some—for example, the military or health care employers—can ask (see question 6 below, “6. Are all employers barred from asking about my juvenile record?”). If you have questions about how to complete a job application with either an adult or juvenile case, or if you think employers are unfairly considering your record, please contact an attorney for assistance.

3. Are all types of records for an offense committed when I was under 18 considered juvenile “adjudications” rather than criminal “convictions”?

Not necessarily. If the juvenile case was filed directly in or transferred to adult criminal court, then records related to that case may not be subject to the same confidentiality of juvenile records. If the juvenile case was sent to adult court, then convictions in the adult court will be considered adult criminal convictions even if the person was under 18 when the offense occurred. This means that in some situations—for instance, if the case was in criminal court—juvenile confidentiality protections would not apply. Adjudications for driving under the influence are another exception. Juvenile confidentiality protections and record sealing processes won’t apply to certain driving offenses that become part of the public record under Vehicle Code section 1808.⁸

4. How do employers access my juvenile records?

Some employers performing background checks to screen applicants or employees may do a general internet search or try to search governmental sources (such as court records, law enforcement records, or state criminal record repositories) themselves. For the most part, juvenile records should not be returned in response to a search of publicly available information. However, many employers use third-party background screening businesses. Businesses that sell criminal history information to employers are called “consumer reporting agencies” (CRAs).⁹ CRAs generally may not report adult arrest records more than seven years old or juvenile records. However, they may report adult convictions indefinitely.

5. Should I agree to receive a copy of my background check when a potential employer offers?

Always agree to receive a copy of your background check. This can give you an opportunity to correct errors or explain entries.

Yes. You should always say yes to receiving a copy of your background check report when employers order it as part of their hiring process. Requesting the report at the time of application allows you more time to promptly dispute any inaccurate or improper reports.

Also, if you have previously been a victim of inaccurate or improper background check reports, you can try to correct those CRA reports (see question 9 for

⁸ Cal. Veh. Code § 1808 (“all records of the [Department of Motor Vehicles] relating to the registration of vehicles, other information contained on an application for a driver’s license, abstracts of convictions, and abstracts of accident reports required to be sent to the department [except for accidents where another individual was at fault] shall be open to public inspection”). For example, DUI violations will be reported for 10 years; other serious violations, such as driving with a suspended license, will be maintained for 7 years; traffic accidents and all other traffic violations will be maintained for 3 years from the date of the accident/violation.

⁹ CRAs provide information in “consumer reports” under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA).

additional information) and keep a copy of the correction for future reference. You may want to get the name of the credit reporting agency that will be supplying the report to an employer when applying for jobs and contact this CRA before a report is issued to alert them about past mistakes made by other CRAs.

6. Are all employers barred from asking about my juvenile record?

No. Government, healthcare, and military employers may be allowed to ask for juvenile records. Government agencies employing peace officers may ask about any arrest or diversion program.¹⁰ Health facilities may ask about arrests for offenses listed under Penal Code section 290 (Sex Offender Registration) or Health & Safety Code section 11590 (Drug Registration).¹¹ The federal government is not subject to California laws protecting certain records, including juvenile records, from disclosure. Many federal employers get records from the FBI. You can see section 8 (“[What about my Federal Record, or FBI RAP?](#)”) for more information about dealing with the federal version of your juvenile record. Like civilian federal employers, the military is not governed by California state law and may still be able to view your juvenile records even if the records are sealed. People with juvenile records who want to apply to an employer who lawfully can inquire about their juvenile record may want to seek legal advice before applying. There may be unexpected consequences, particularly for applicants trying to join the military. Intentionally failing to disclose a juvenile conviction could expose someone to being court martialed.¹²

7. What can I do if a CRA has made a mistake in reporting?

You have a right to review the background check that an employer used to evaluate you in their hiring process and review its accuracy. If you see any errors, you can submit a correction letter and send it via certified mail to the relevant CRA. You can also request that the CRA give you information on the furnisher of the information in the report, pursuant to California’s Investigative Consumer Reporting Agency Act.¹³ This is important because the furnisher might be a major vendor of criminal records information, and correcting the errors with them may help prevent errors in future reports.

¹⁰ Cal. Labor Code § 432.7(b).

¹¹ Cal. Labor Code § 432.7(f) (referencing the version of Health and Safety Code section 11590 in effect January 1, 2019).

¹² 10 U.S.C. § 883, Art. 83. Fraudulent enlistment, appointment, or separation.

¹³ ICRAA § 1786.24(g)

5. How do I seal my juvenile record?

There are two main laws that allow judges to seal juvenile records and one law that allows court to dismiss (or erase) a juvenile court case. You can find a more detailed breakdown of each law in the chart following this section.

Overview of juvenile dismissal and sealing options

Depending on what is on your record (you can see more about reading your RAP above in Question 3, “[How Do I Read My RAP Sheet?](#)”), you may want to ask the court to use one or more of the following laws:

1. Welfare and Institutions Code section 781 can seal most juvenile records, including juvenile arrests, unless you do have adult convictions for a felony or misdemeanor of moral turpitude;¹⁴

Note: If you get clean slate services on a felony or misdemeanor of moral turpitude conviction, they no longer count against you for purposes of requesting sealing. Welf. & Inst. Code § 781(a)(1)(G). It is a good idea to always keep any paperwork related to clean slate or record sealing proceedings.

2. Section 786 is usually used to seal misdemeanors and less serious felonies when a young person successfully finishes their juvenile probation. Some courts will use it on older cases too as long as the young person successfully completed their juvenile probation;
3. Section 782 is used to dismiss (rather than seal) a case. If you have a more serious felony, or “707(b)” offense, you will need to ask the judge to dismiss your juvenile case or cases under section 782 before you can ask them to seal the case using one of the other laws.

There is a more detailed breakdown of the three main laws in the chart on pages 13–17.

Can I seal juvenile arrests?

Only section 781, not section 786, gives explicit permission to courts to seal juvenile arrest records. The California courts have an explanation of how to ask for relief under section 781. You can see it here: <https://courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/courts/default/2024-11/jv595info.pdf>. List all juvenile law enforcement contacts or cases on the JV 595 court form. You can use your RAP to make sure you fill out the form in a comprehensive manner. As is says on the JV 595, the court may not list incidents that are not listed on the form.

¹⁴ Common examples of misdemeanors of moral turpitude are theft crimes or crimes that involve deceiving someone. The “crimes of moral turpitude” category is often used in the immigration context. The Immigrant Legal Resource Center describes crimes involving moral turpitude as “crimes with elements of intent to defraud, intent to cause great bodily injury, and theft with intent to deprive permanently. In also includes some offenses involving lewdness, recklessness, or malice.” They have a resource with a more detailed explanation and list here: https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/california_chart_jan_2016-v2.pdf.

My record was already sealed. Why is it still showing up?

When a young person successfully completes probation on a misdemeanor or less serious felony (in other words, an offense other than a more serious 707(b) offense), the juvenile court orders their record sealed under Welfare and Institutions Code section 786.¹⁵ That order should get sent out to entities that might have information about that juvenile case, like probation, the prosecutor, or police departments. The court gives a deadline for each entity to certify that they have destroyed any relevant records in their possession. Agencies like police and probation departments get five years. The court can hold onto the record until the person turns 30, or sometimes longer.¹⁶ If your record was ordered sealed recently, agencies and the court may still be processing the sealing order. The court clerk's office should send you a letter in the mail once every agency instructed to seal and destroy your juvenile record has done so. If you need an update on the sealing process, you can go to the clerk's office with your ID and ask for one.

If it has been several years, though, or you got the letter confirming that the sealing order has been complied with, but your juvenile record is still showing up, there may be another issue. The paperwork communicating the judge's sealing order may not have included everyone it should have, or all of your juvenile record. You may need to refile the paperwork or ask for the judge to order sealing for the agencies who didn't get the original paperwork.

It is a good idea to ask for and keep copies of any paperwork related to your juvenile record sealing, or juvenile case.

Even if your record was properly sealed under section 786 and all the paperwork was done correctly, the law allows your juvenile record to be used in certain limited ways. That is because section 786 has some exceptions. For instance, the Department of Justice can look at records that have been sealed under section 786 to see if someone's juvenile record prevents them from being licensed to own a gun. Or a prosecutor may be able to look at your record, even though it has been sealed, if you have a felony juvenile case and the judge is deciding what kind of probation or placement to order you on. If you are curious to read the exceptions to 786 sealing, you can read section 786 starting at subsection (g):

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=786.&lawCode=WIC.

Even if your juvenile record has been sealed under section 786, you may still ask the court to seal your record under section 781 if you qualify for relief under that section. You may be able to use section 781 to more fully seal your records if, for instance, the DOJ is flagging you as unable to buy a firearm after 786 sealing has been granted and processed.¹⁷

For a more thorough breakdown of the three laws discussed above, please see the next page.

¹⁵ Sealing under section 786 or 'automatic' sealing, as it is sometimes called, started in 2015. Prior to that, section 781 was the only juvenile sealing law.

¹⁶ If the offense results in a ban on lawful firearm ownership, the records will not be destroyed until the person's thirty-third birthday. Welf. & Inst. Code § 786(a).

¹⁷ A court of appeals has clarified that a juvenile court can grant additional sealing, even if the court has already ordered certain records sealed. *See In re A.B.* (2023) 94 Cal.App.5th 82.

Sealing/Dismissing Your Juvenile Record

	<i>Discretionary Sealing</i> <i>WIC § 781</i>	<i>'Automatic' Sealing</i> <i>WIC §§ 786, 786.5¹</i>	<i>Petition Dismissal</i> <i>WIC § 782</i>
<i>What can I seal or dismiss?</i>	You can request to SEAL both juvenile cases <i>and</i> arrests that never led to a juvenile case.	You can request to SEAL juvenile cases, if you completed probation successfully.	You can request to DISMISS juvenile cases.
<i>Am I eligible?</i>	<p>You are eligible to seal a juvenile case if:</p> <p>(1) You are 18+ OR 5+ years have passed since your juvenile case ended</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>(2) Since your case ended, you haven't been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor 'involving moral turpitude.'² WIC § 781(a)(1)(A).</p> <p>You are eligible to seal an arrest if:</p> <p>(1) You are 18+ OR 5+ years have passed since you had to appear before a probation or police officer for the arrest</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>(2) Since you were arrested, you haven't been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor 'involving moral turpitude.'² WIC § 781(a)(1)(A).</p>	<p>You are eligible to seal a juvenile case if:</p> <p>(1) While you were on probation, you had no new wardship findings (the juvenile equivalent of convictions) OR adult convictions for felonies or misdemeanors 'involving moral turpitude'²</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>(2) You 'substantially' complied with probation rules.³ WIC § 786(a)-(c).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>(3) You completed probation after § 786 was enacted, on January 1, 2015. <u>This rule only applies in some counties.</u> Compare <i>In re I.F.</i> (2017) 13 Cal.App.5th 679, with <i>In re O.C.</i> (2019) 40 Cal.App.5th 1196.</p>	<p>You are eligible to dismiss a juvenile case if:</p> <p>(1) The 'interests of justice' and your 'welfare' require dismissal OR you don't need treatment or rehabilitation. WIC § 782(a)(1).</p> <p>The court must strongly consider 'mitigating circumstances': for example, whether you completed probation satisfactorily, or whether your juvenile offense was connected to mental illness or trauma. WIC § 782(a)(2)(A).</p>

¹ Section 786.5 covers 'automatic' sealing for people arrested for a crime as a juvenile but then referred to a diversion program or supervision.

² There's no record sealing statute or case law that defines misdemeanors 'involving moral turpitude.' We suggest borrowing from immigration law to decide if a misdemeanor qualifies.

³ 'Substantial' compliance does not mean perfect compliance. See *In re A.V.* (2017) 11 Cal.App.5th 697, 708-09.

Sealing/Dismissing Your Juvenile Record

<p><i>Is there anything that can't be sealed?</i></p>	<p>More serious crimes like murder or robbery (known as § 707(b) offenses) need to be dismissed under § 782 before they can be fully sealed. WIC § 781(e)(1)(E). WIC § 707(b)(1) has a full list of these offenses.</p>	<p>More serious crimes like murder or robbery (known as § 707(b) offenses) need to be dismissed under § 782 before they can be fully sealed. WIC § 786(d). WIC § 707(b)(1) has a full list of these offenses.</p>	<p>N/A. § 782 dismisses cases, it doesn't seal them.</p>
<p><i>What does sealing or dismissal do?</i></p>	<p>Once the paperwork is processed (which can take several months), it's like your arrest or case never happened. If you owe restitutions/fines, you still need to pay them. WIC § 781(a)(2)-(3), (g)(1)-(2). But if asked about the arrest or case by an employer, school, or anyone else, you can say it never occurred. WIC § 781(a)(1)(A).</p>	<p>Once the paperwork is processed (which can take several months), it's like your case never happened. If you owe restitutions/fines, you still need to pay them. WIC § 786(h). But if asked about the case by an employer, school, or anyone else, you can say it never occurred. WIC § 786(b).</p>	<p>Dismissing more serious § 707 offenses allows you to fully seal them under § 781 or § 786. WIC §§ 781(a)(1)(E); 786(d). But dismissing a case doesn't seal it.</p>
<p><i>Can anyone still access my records?</i></p>	<p>Yes, but rarely. You may still access your sealed records. WIC § 781(a)(4). And the DMV may disclose juvenile vehicle code violations to auto insurers. WIC § 781(c)(1)-(2).⁴</p>	<p>Yes, but rarely. Some people in the juvenile or criminal systems can access your records when deciding, eg, whether adult charges should be filed in a juvenile case, or the sentence in an adult criminal case. The military may still access records, as can the Department of Justice, if it's determining firearm eligibility under Penal Code § 29820. WIC § 786(g).</p>	<p>N/A. § 782 dismisses cases, it doesn't seal them.</p>

⁴ Section 781 allows you to seal § 707(b) offenses in very limited circumstances. WIC § 781(a)(1)(D)(i). If you seal a § 707(b) offense without first dismissing it under § 782, then your record can be accessed by courts and prosecutors in a range of circumstances. WIC § 781(a)(1)(D)(ii).

Sealing/Dismissing Your Juvenile Record

<p><i>Will my records be destroyed?</i></p>	<p>Yes; your court records will be destroyed when you turn 38, and any agency with copies will destroy them 5 years after they're sealed. WIC § 781(d).</p>	<p>Yes; your court records will be destroyed when you turn 38, and any agency with copies will destroy them 5 years after they're sealed. Cal. R. Ct. 5.840(d).⁵ But, if you cannot own a firearm until you're 30 under Penal Code § 29820, your records cannot be destroyed until you turn 33. WIC § 786(a).</p>	<p>N/A. § 782 dismisses cases, it doesn't seal them.</p>
<p><i>How can I get my records sealed or dismissed?</i></p>	<p>Bring a filled-out JV-595 form to the probation department in the county where you were on probation (if you were never on probation, then bring the form to the probation office of any county where you have a juvenile record).⁶ The court then holds a hearing to determine if you qualify. You may not be required to attend if the district attorney and probation department agree your records should be sealed. If they oppose your request, you should submit a written motion to the court. More instructions can be found here.</p>	<p>Judges in some counties routinely order petitions dismissed and records sealed when you satisfactorily complete probation. If they do not, your lawyer can request this when you are dismissed from probation, or afterwards. You or your lawyer must complete the sealing process by submitting a JV-596 form to the court. More instructions can be found here.</p>	<p>Usually, you would ask for dismissal under § 782 when you ask for sealing under § 781 or § 786. After you submit the forms for sealing, you can submit a written motion to the court, asking for dismissal under § 782.</p>

⁵ In some counties, courts order your records destroyed by your 30th birthday.

⁶ In a small number of counties, you need to take the JV-595 form to court, not the probation department. Call your local juvenile probation office to be sure.

6. How can I ask the court to seal records of my juvenile strike?

Both of the main juvenile sealing laws (section 781 and section 786) have exceptions for “707(b) offenses.”¹⁸ 707(b) offenses include serious felonies like assault with a deadly weapon, arson, and murder that were committed when the young person was 14 or older. Before a judge can use either section 781 or section 786 to seal records related to a 707(b)/juvenile strike offense, the offense must be reduced to a non-707(b) offense or dismissed. So, if you want to seek sealing of a 707(b) offense, you can ask the court to dismiss the offense under Welfare and Institutions Code section 782 first. Section 782 allows a judge to remove most consequences of your juvenile case, including its existence as a strike on your record. You can ask the judge to first dismiss the case (or cases) and then seal any records relating to the case(s).

Note: Sex offender/Penal Code section 290.008 registration is treated differently than other consequences of a juvenile offense. In 2024, a court decided that **section 782 doesn’t allow a judge to erase 290/sex offender registration requirement.**¹⁹ There may, however, be other ways to address your registration requirement. You can find information about sex offender registration and possible relief here: <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/clean-your-record/sex-offender-registration>. Until you are given written confirmation that you can stop registering, you should continue registering as instructed. You may have additional legal problems if you do not register properly and on time.

The exact steps for getting in front of a judge and asking them to dismiss your juvenile case or cases under Welfare and Institutions Code section 782 may depend on your county.

Potential places to start:

- You may want to call the juvenile probation office of the county in which your juvenile case happened. You can ask if they have a record sealing clerk or an officer who handles record sealing requests. That person may be able to give you important information, like if there are certain days the court hears record sealing requests and how to get a case on the judge’s calendar. **You should be specific that you are requesting dismissal under Welfare and**

If you reach out to probation, the court clerk, or an attorney, be sure to specify that you want to pursue dismissal under section 782 as well as sealing. People may otherwise assume you are requesting sealing only, which may not be possible (if you are trying to address a 707(b) offense) or ideal (dismissal plus sealing usually affords the most

¹⁸ A list of 707(b) offense can be found in Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 707, subsection (b): https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=707.&lawCode=WIC.

¹⁹ That case was *In re Taylor C.* (2024) 101 Cal.App.5th 492. You can read it here: <https://law.justia.com/cases/california/court-of-appeal/2024/a168282.html>.

Institutions Code section 782, in addition to record sealing. Sealing and dismissal are related but distinct things, and you need to ask for each explicitly.

- You could try to find an attorney who does juvenile record sealing work in the county where your juvenile case happened. Some potential leads are listed here: <https://ebclc.org/get-help/youth-justice-and-education-services/youth-justice-and-education-referrals/record-sealing/>.
- If the local juvenile probation office cannot help you and you cannot find an attorney, you can try asking the judge yourself.
 - You can also try calling or going to the juvenile clerk of court’s office and asking if they can provide any support. **You should be specific that you are requesting dismissal under Welfare and Institutions Code section 782, not just record sealing.**
 - You can try adding the case to the calendar yourself by submitting a request to add the case to the court’s calendar (the form used to do that can be found here: <https://www.alameda.courts.ca.gov/system/files/ala-jv-001-application-and-order-change-or-add-juvenile-court-date1.pdf>). **You should be specific that you are requesting dismissal under Welfare and Institutions Code section 782, not just record sealing.** If you are requesting dismissal under section 782 and sealing under section 781, you will also need to take the steps explained here: <https://courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/courts/default/2024-11/jv595info.pdf> and in the chart on pages 13–17.

Once you have a hearing date, you may want to write something explaining to the judge why you are asking for dismissal and sharing positive aspects of what your life looks like now. It can be a straightforward letter, or a more formal document called a motion. There are some example motions here: <https://perma.cc/MT8X-9V3A>. If you want to write the more formal motion, you should have it done well in advance because you will probably need to give a copy to the court and the prosecutor about a week before the hearing date. There is more information about representing yourself here: <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/court-basics/representing-yourself>.

If you would rather write a letter, you can ask the clerk of the juvenile court about how to submit it ahead of time. If you cannot submit it ahead of time, you can try bringing a copy to court. You might want to bring **four copies** (one each for the judge, the prosecutor, the probation officer, and yourself). If the judge won’t accept the paper copy, you can **ask to read the letter aloud** to the judge.

The next few pages have some tips for writing a letter to the court to request that the judge dismiss your juvenile case or cases under Welfare and Institutions Code section 782. The first page is an example letter, which has the made-up information like what you might want to include, and a couple tips for writing a letter. As a reminder, you may need to first get your case on the judge’s radar by adding it on or asking probation to do so. A letter alone likely would not be enough to cue the court to add your case to the calendar.

After the example, there is a fill-in-the blank template that you can use to draft your own letter.

May 5, 2025

Alameda County Superior Court
Juvenile Justice Center
2500 Fairmont Dr., Suite C3103
San Leandro, CA 94578

Juvenile record dismissal (and sealing) requests are heard in juvenile court. You can usually look up the location of your county's juvenile courthouse, or you can skip the address and start with "Dear Judge."

Dear Judge:

If you know the name of the judge who will be at your hearing, you can include that here.

I am writing to support my request that you dismiss my juvenile petitions under Welfare and Institutions Code section 782.

In this paragraph, you should tell the judge some things about your life now: job, school, family, volunteer work, etc. There is nothing too small to mention – this is your opportunity to share positive things with the judge.

I want to share a little about what my life looks like today. I am a self-employed father of two children. I take my kids to school every day. Education is very important in my household. After school, my kids are involved with sports. I am the assistant coach on my daughter's soccer team. I work hard to provide for my family and I hope to secure a more consistent job so that I can support them as they grow up.

I am asking the court to dismiss my juvenile petition because my juvenile record is holding me back. There have been some jobs that I wanted to apply for, but I did not end up submitting the application because I was worried they would judge me on my juvenile record. I want to live my life without my juvenile record following me around. I have changed a lot since I was fifteen, when I picked up my first juvenile case.

It can be helpful to give the judge information about why you want your juvenile record cleaned: career advancement, firearm license, or other future opportunities (job, education, etc.).

Welfare and Institutions Code section 782 identifies a few mitigating circumstances that give my request to dismiss my juvenile petitions great weight. First of all, I successfully completed my juvenile probation. At the time, my attorney told me I couldn't do anything about my juvenile record because of how serious my charges were, but I did well on probation and finished successfully. I also have stayed out of trouble as an adult and kept my focus on my family and earning money, and so believe I have been rehabilitated.

The law gives several examples of mitigating circumstances that give your request that the judge dismiss your petition "great weight" (see next page). If you think one (or more) apply for you, you'll want to explain how.

I am including a letter of support written by my daughter's head soccer coach. She can speak to my character as an adult.

I respectfully request that the court grant my motion to dismiss my juvenile petition(s) under Welfare and Institutions Code section 782 and seal my juvenile records.

You can include letters of support from family, friends, colleagues, former managers, faith leaders, or anyone who has positive information to share about you. These letters do not need to be about your juvenile case; they can focus on your character and life.

Sincerely,

John Doe

This is a template letter (example on page 20). You can use this to draft your own, which should include any information you feel comfortable sharing with the court, the prosecutor, and probation, who will all read this letter. Avoid saying anything intentionally misleading.

[Date]

[Court name and address]

Dear Judge:

I am writing to support my request that you consider dismissing my juvenile petitions under Welfare and Institutions Code section 782.

I want to share a little about what my life looks like today.

I am asking the court to dismiss my juvenile petition because . . .

The law names a few mitigating circumstances that give my request to dismiss my juvenile petition(s) great weight. *[Keep any of the following that you think apply to your case(s) and life. You do not need to include all of them, or even more than one.]*

- *My offense was related to mental illness, prior victimization, or childhood trauma;*
- *I have been rehabilitated;*
- *I successfully completed my juvenile probation;*
- *Dismissing my petition wouldn't be a danger to public safety;*
- *Another mitigating circumstance applies to me (explain what it is).]*

I am including a letter of support (or letters of support) written by . . .

I respectfully request that the court grant my motion to dismiss my juvenile petition(s) under Welfare and Institutions Code section 782 and seal my juvenile records.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

7. What about my federal record, or FBI RAP?

If your record has been ordered sealed by the state juvenile court, you might be able to pursue additional relief on your federal or FBI RAP sheet. This is most important for people seeking employment that requires a federal background check or security clearance.

NOTE: Although most state arrests and cases are passed along to the FBI, there is always a risk that you may inadvertently disclose an arrest or case to the FBI by seeking relief in the manner described below. It may also be risky to be on the FBI's radar because criminal and juvenile cases may have immigration consequences. If you are concerned about any of the above, **you should consult an attorney BEFORE initiating the process described below.**

If you have concerns about being on the federal government's radar, for immigration or other reasons, consult an attorney before starting this process.

What is an FBI RAP sheet? Any person who has a record of arrests or delinquency or criminal cases in the United States also has a copy of those records held by the FBI.

Why File? The FBI RAP sheet is meant to be updated based on any changes to state records, such as when a juvenile record is sealed and removed from a California RAP sheet. However, there is no set timeline upon which these updates occur.

FBI RAPs are subject to review when people apply for federal jobs (among other things), so failure to disclose arrests/cases that are otherwise sealed may have consequences if there is no confirmation they have been corrected in the FBI's records to reflect the sealing.

Why Not File? As described above, cases can have immigration consequences. There may be reasons not to begin this process, which necessarily will put you on the radar of the FBI.

When to File: After the California Department of Justice (the state agency which holds California RAP sheets) has complied with a sealing/dismissal order by removing a sealed/dismissed juvenile arrest or case from the California RAP sheet. Confirm whether the California Department of Justice has complied by:

- Requesting an update on agency compliance with the sealing order from the clerk's office at the court that ordered the sealing (note that you may need to go in person with ID to request this information from a juvenile court) OR
- Requesting a copy of your California RAP sheet and checking if the sealed arrest/case has been removed OR
- Filing a CA DOJ RAP Correction: you should have received the form when you last requested a copy of your RAP sheet. You can file the request to correct it with a copy of the sealing order to try to expedite the CA DOJ's compliance with the order. They should respond with a copy of your updated RAP sheet.

How to File:

1. Gather the following:
 - a. Your FBI number: this should be listed at the top of your California DOJ or FBI RAP sheet.
 - b. Contact information that you feel comfortable sharing with the FBI.
 - c. The date (date of the arrest or adjudication), location (county and state), and any other identifying information you have (such as a case number) for each sealed arrest and each sealed and/or dismissed case.
 - d. The date on which each case/arrest was sealed or dismissed and, if possible, what law it was sealed or dismissed under.
 - e. *Optional:*
 - i. A copy of the sealing or dismissal order,
 - ii. Any confirmation of sealing by the California DOJ (such as a letter from the clerk's office confirming their compliance with the sealing order or a copy of the California RAP sheet with the sealed case/arrest removed),
 2. Go to this webpage <https://www.edo.cjis.gov/#/> and enter your email address in the section at the bottom of the webpage labeled "Challenge Your Identity History Summary."
 3. Look for an email from "Criminal Justice Information Services <edo@services.fbi.gov>", click on the emailed link, and enter the pin number in the email to access an electronic form.
 4. Once on the form:
 - a. Select "Challenge Your Identity History Summary".
 - b. List the reason as:
 - i. For a sealed arrest: Expunged or Sealed Arrest Information
 - ii. For a juvenile court case that was dismissed/sealed: Remove Dismissed or Pardoned Information
 - c. In the section that asks for details: list the information about each case or arrest that was sealed or dismissed and state that you would like it removed from the FBI RAP sheet.
 - i. **Sample Language:** "My file and RAP sheet should no longer reflect an [arrest/juvenile case] from [DATE] in [COUNTY], California. That [arrest/juvenile case] was ordered sealed [and dismissed] on [DATE] by the Juvenile branch of the Superior Court of California in [COUNTY].
 1. *If the sealing involved any arrest that did not go to court:* Under California Welfare & Institutions Code 781, which served as the basis for sealing this arrest, "[o]nce the court has ordered the person's records sealed, the proceedings in the case shall be deemed never to have occurred[.]"
 2. *If the sealing was for a case[s] that went to court and was done using the law WIC 786:* Under California Welfare & Institutions Code 786, which served as the basis for sealing and dismissing this case, "[u]pon the court's order of dismissal of the petition, the arrest and other proceedings in the case shall be deemed not to have occurred[.]"
- Therefore, I request that any record of that [arrest/juvenile case] in my FBI file/RAP sheet be sealed and removed. I have confirmed that the California DOJ has now complied with the sealing order and should be able to confirm that the FBI RAP

This resource is informational and current as of May 2025. It is not legal advice. If you have questions, you should consult an attorney.

sheet should reflect a removal of this [arrest/juvenile case]. Please contact me at [EMAIL/Phone Number]

- d. Fill in your identifying information: at minimum include your name, birthdate, your email address, and your FBI number (“FBI UCN”).
- e. Fill in contact information where they can send you a response: the contact information should be either for yourself or a reliable advocate (such as an attorney) for whom you can attach a release of information.
- f. Attach any documents you feel comfortable sharing such as: the sealing order, confirmation of sealing by the California DOJ, and/or a release of information for your attorney/advocate.
- g. Select Yes for receiving status notifications.
- h. Click Submit.

What happens after you submit a request? The FBI should contact you with a response or any follow up questions via the contact information you provided. Note that this may take several months.

8. Conclusion

This guide may be able to help you request, understand, and seal any juvenile records you may have. As stated throughout, this guide is meant to be a jumping-off point and is not a substitute for consulting an attorney or reviewing materials yourself, especially things like Rules of Court that may vary across different counties.

There are three California laws at the center of this guide: Welfare and Institutions Code sections 781, 782, and 786. Those laws, and any court forms or California Courts self help materials referenced or included in this guide, apply across all counties in California. We hope you can leverage these laws to help you achieve goals that your juvenile record might have been a barrier to. Good luck.