



## Judicial Council of California

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688

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# INVITATION TO COMMENT

## SPR26-24

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**Title**

Juvenile Law: Record Sealing Rules and Forms

**Action Requested**

Review and submit comments by May 18, 2026, to [invitations@jud.ca.gov](mailto:invitations@jud.ca.gov)

**Proposed Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes**

Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 5.830, 5.840, and 5.860; approve forms JV-920 and JV-921; revise forms JV-591, JV-592, JV-595-INFO, and JV-596-INFO

**Proposed Effective Date**

January 1, 2027

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**Proposed by**

Family and Juvenile Law Advisory  
Committee  
Hon. Tari L. Cody, Cochair  
Hon. Stephanie E. Hulsey, Cochair

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### Executive Summary and Origin

Assembly Bill 1877 (Jackson; Stats. 2024, ch. 811) added section 788 to the Welfare and Institutions Code. Under the new section, county probation officers are required to initiate the record sealing process for individuals 18 years of age or older upon termination of juvenile court delinquency jurisdiction. The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee proposes amending three rules, approving two new forms, and revising four existing forms to implement AB 1877.

### Background

Before AB 1877, the juvenile record sealing process was primarily governed by sections 781, 786, and 786.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. Under these sections, a preliminary finding that “rehabilitation has been attained to the satisfaction of the court” (section 781) or that the youth “satisfactorily” completed either a term of juvenile probation (section 786) or informal

*This proposal has not been approved by the Judicial Council and is not intended to represent the views of the council, its Rules Committee, or its Legislation Committee. It is circulated for comment purposes only.*

diversion<sup>1</sup> (section 786.5) is required for a record sealing request to be granted. Section 788<sup>2</sup> adds an additional method to seal juvenile records for persons 18 years of age and older.

In cases where a petition has been filed “to commence proceedings to adjudge a person a ward of the court,” section 788 requires the county probation officer to petition the court to seal the person’s records once the person has reached 18 years of age, if the person will not remain under delinquency jurisdiction. Under this circumstance, the probation officer is required to immediately request the court “to seal the records relating to the person’s case that are in custody of the juvenile court, probation officer, law enforcement agency, or any other private or public agency.” (§ 788(a)(1).) The probation officer is also required to provide a copy of the request to the person and their counsel at least 30 days prior to filing it and to the prosecuting attorney at least 15 days prior. (§§ 788(a)(1), (j).)

If the person will remain under the court’s delinquency jurisdiction after they have reached 18 years of age, the probation officer is required to submit the same request to the court no later than one year after the termination of jurisdiction. (§ 788(a)(2).)

The court must grant the request to seal as long as the person has not been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude after the juvenile court’s jurisdiction was terminated. (§ 788(c).) The court finding that the person has achieved rehabilitation (section 781) or satisfactorily completed a term of juvenile probation (section 786) is not required for a request for sealing under section 788 to be granted. Once sealing is granted, “the proceedings of the sealed case shall be deemed never to have occurred and the person may properly reply accordingly to any inquiry about the events.” (§ 788(d).)

## **The Proposal**

To implement AB 1877, the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee proposes amending rules 5.830, 5.840, and 5.860. The committee also proposes approving two new forms, *Request to Seal Juvenile Records—Welfare and Institutions Code Section 788* (form JV-920) and *Order on Request to Seal Juvenile Records—Welfare and Institutions Code Section 788* (form JV-921), and revising four existing forms, *Acknowledgment of Juvenile Record Sealed* (form JV-591), *Prosecutor Request for Access to Sealed Juvenile Case File* (form JV-592), *How to Ask the Court to Seal Your Records* (form JV-595-INFO), and *Sealing of Records Upon Successful Completion of Probation* (form JV-596-INFO). The committee’s proposal is described in detail below.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Because this proposal addresses record sealing following completion of probation, the sealing of diversion records under section 786.5 is not further discussed.

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, all statutory citations are to the Welfare and Institutions Code.

<sup>3</sup> The committee also proposing replacing gendered language and using “must” instead of “shall” to confirm with Judicial Council style guidelines.

**Rule 5.830, Sealing records (§ 781)**

Rule 5.830(a)(2) sets forth the procedure for sealing records under section 781. The committee proposes updating the subdivision to state that forms JV-595 and JV-595-INFO must be provided when records are not sealed “under section 786 or 788,” instead of only “under section 786.” Similarly, it proposes the same revision to state that form JV-596-INFO must be given if records are sealed under either section because records may now be sealed whether probation was successfully completed or not. Lastly, the proposal renames JV-596-INFO from *Sealing of Records for Satisfactory Completion of Probation* to *Sealing of Records After Completion of Probation* to reflect that the form should be provided after sealing under either section.

**Rule 5.840, Dismissal of petition and sealing of records (§ 786)**

Rule 5.840 sets forth the statutory procedure for sealing juvenile records under section 786. For the reasons set forth above, the committee recommends that subdivision (e) of the rule be amended to change the title of form JV-596-INFO from *Sealing of Records for Satisfactory Completion of Probation* to *Sealing of Records After Completion of Probation*.

**Rule 5.860, Prosecuting attorney request to access sealed juvenile case files**

Rule 5.860 sets forth the statutory procedure a prosecuting attorney may use to request access to sealed juvenile records when the attorney has reason to believe that accessing, inspecting, or utilizing those records may be necessary to discharge a duty to disclose favorable or exculpatory evidence to a defendant in a criminal case. The rule applies to records sealed under Penal Code section 851.7, section 781, section 786, or section 793. Because section 788 includes the same provision, the committee proposes amending the rule to include a reference to section 788 as well.

**Request to Seal Juvenile Records—Welfare and Institutions Code Section 788 (form JV-920)**

The committee proposes new form JV-920 as an optional form for county probation departments to petition the court to seal juvenile records under section 788. The committee recommends the form be optional so that probation departments may develop their own petitions should they wish to do so.

- Item 1 is for the name of the probation officer making the request to seal juvenile records.
- Item 2 is for the officer to specify information about the person whose records are to be sealed.
- Item 3 states the required factors for the records to be eligible for sealing under section 788. (§ 788(c).)
- Item 4 is for the officer to specify the records they request to be sealed. The form requires the officer to indicate the petition/case number of the records, the arresting agency, the incident number, the offense date (or dates if the offense occurred on more than one date), and the violations alleged for each record requested to be sealed.

- Item 5 is for the officer to specify which agencies are in possession of the records being requested to be sealed.
- Item 6 states that the notice requirements in section 788 have been complied with. (§§ 788(a)(1), (j).)
- Item 7 is for the officer to indicate how many pages of attachments, if any, are attached to the request for sealing.
- The officer is required to sign the form under penalty of perjury.

***Order on Request to Seal Juvenile Records—Welfare and Institutions Code Section 788 (form JV-921)***

The committee proposes new form JV-921 as an optional form for a juvenile court to order sealing of records under section 788. The form can be used to grant or deny a request to seal and explain the court’s reasoning for denying the request. The committee recommends the form be optional so that juvenile courts may develop their own forms or processes should they wish to.

- Item 1 is for the name of the probation officer making the sealing request on behalf of the person whose records have been requested to be sealed.
- Item 2 is for information about the person whose records are to be sealed.
- Item 3 is to memorialize the date and location of any hearing held regarding the request.
- Item 4 is for the court to indicate whether it grants or denies the request to seal. The item consists of three parts. The first part is for the court to make the required findings to order sealing. The second part is for the court to specify which records have been requested to be sealed, and for the court to indicate whether the request to seal each record is granted or denied. The third part is for the court to provide its reason for denial of the request for any of the specified records, if applicable.
- Item 5 is for the court to specify which agencies are in possession of the sealed records. The item also orders the agencies to seal the records, as well as the copy of the order itself, and to send notice to the court that it has complied with the order.
- Item 6 is for the court to indicate the deadline or deadlines for destruction of the sealed records.
- Item 7 reiterates that the sealed proceedings must be treated as if they never happened. The statement is intended to emphasize the legal effect of record sealing.
- Item 8 orders the court clerk to send a certified copy of the signed form to the person, the person’s attorney, if applicable, and the agencies affected by the order.

***Acknowledgment of Juvenile Record Sealed (form JV-591)***

Form JV-591 is used by various agencies to advise the court of their compliance with a juvenile record sealing order. The instructions contained on this form state, in part, that “[u]nder Welfare and Institutions Code sections 781 and 786, agencies must advise the court of their compliance

with the court’s sealing order.” Because section 788 mandates agencies to comply with the same requirement, the form would be revised to add a reference to that section in the instructions.

***Prosecutor Request for Access to Sealed Juvenile Case File (form JV-592)***

Form JV-592 is used by prosecuting attorneys to request access to sealed juvenile case files when they have reason to believe that accessing, inspecting, or utilizing those records may be necessary to discharge a duty to disclose favorable or exculpatory evidence to a defendant in a criminal case. The form authorizes its use when records are sealed pursuant to Penal Code section 851.7, section 781, section 793, or section 786. However, because section 788 includes this same provision under subdivision (f)(C)(i), the committee proposes that the form be revised to add a reference to section 788 in item 3 of the form. The committee proposes making minor technical changes to the form as well.

***How to Ask the Court to Seal Your Records (form JV-595-INFO)***

Form JV-595-INFO is an information sheet that accompanies form JV-595 (*Request to Seal Juvenile Records*), which assists applicants requesting sealing under section 781.

The committee initially proposes amending the form to state, “There are several ways that records may be sealed in California,” deleting the reference to the number and effective date of the sealing statutes mentioned in the current form.

The committee also proposes the addition of a new section, “What happens when my records are sealed?” to explain who has access to sealed records and the legal effect of juvenile record sealing. Similarly, the committee proposes the addition of another new section titled “What if I did not satisfactorily complete probation?” to explain how records may be sealed under section 788, even if probation was not satisfactorily completed.

In addition, the proposal revises the section of the information sheet titled “What if I owe restitution or fines?” to remove inaccurate statements about requirements to pay outstanding fines and fees.<sup>4</sup> As of 2018, counties have been prohibited from charging fees in juvenile court for detention, representation by counsel, electronic monitoring, probation, supervision, and drug testing.<sup>5</sup> As of 2020, all outstanding juvenile fees have been discharged.<sup>6</sup>

The current form also contains a section titled “Who does not qualify to have their records sealed?” The committee proposes the addition of a bullet point to explain that if a case was transferred to criminal court and resulted in conviction as an adult for any offense, the person convicted cannot have their records sealed. The committee also proposes adding that records related to a section 707(b) offense committed when the person was 14 years of age or older may

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<sup>4</sup> The committee makes the same recommendation to update similar language on form JV-596-INFO.

<sup>5</sup> See Penal Code section 1203.1ab (drug testing); Penal Code section 1208.2 (electronic monitoring); section 903 (detention); section 903.1 (representation by counsel); section 903.2 (supervision); section 903.25 (probation); section 904 (juvenile hall).

<sup>6</sup> Section 223.2.

not be sealed, unless the offense was dismissed or reduced to a misdemeanor or lesser offense not listed in 707(b).<sup>7</sup>

The current form does not accurately describe the disqualifying criteria regarding criminal convictions contained in sections 781 and 786 (as well as section 788), because it suggests that a felony conviction is only disqualifying if it involves moral turpitude. However, recent case law clarifies that a conviction for any felony *or* a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude is disqualifying.<sup>8</sup> The committee recommends clarifying this distinction.

Finally, the current form contains a section titled “Who can see my sealed records?” The current form lists eight situations in which sealed records may be accessed, as authorized under section 781. Because this section describes relatively uncommon situations in detail, the committee proposes streamlining this section to instead list the people and agencies that may be able to access the records in these situations.

### **Sealing of Records After Completion of Probation (form JV-596-INFO)**

Form JV-596-INFO is an information sheet explaining the juvenile record sealing process that occurs after juvenile probation is terminated. The current form applies only to record sealing under section 786. For a record to be sealed under this section, the court must make a finding that the person has “satisfactorily completed” probation. (§ 786(a).) Because the form suggests that juvenile records may only be sealed after satisfactory completion of probation, the committee proposes that the form be revised to include record sealing procedures under section 788, which allows for sealing without the initial finding of satisfactory completion.

To provide such information, the committee proposes an additional section in the form titled “What if I did not complete probation satisfactorily?” Additionally, the committee proposes explaining a distinction between section 786, which provides discretion to seal records of other agencies, and section 788, under which records of other agencies *must* be sealed.

Finally, the current form contains a section titled “Who can see my sealed records?” The current form lists 12 situations in which sealed juvenile records may be accessed, as authorized under section 786(g). Records sealed under section 788, however, may only be accessed in three situations, two of which are already listed on the form. (§ 788(f)(1)(A)–(C).) The third allows access when the court needs to verify the prior jurisdictional status of a ward who petitions to resume jurisdiction pursuant to section 388(c). Because this situation does not apply to a record sealed under section 786, the committee proposes adding additional language on the information sheet to explain this nuance of section 788.

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<sup>7</sup> The same is true for sealing under section 786. (§ 786(d).)

<sup>8</sup> See *In re Brandon H.* (2024) 103 Cal.App.5th 1277, 1285 (a person does not qualify for juvenile record sealing under section 786 if they “suffered ... a new finding of wardship (i.e., adjudication) for a felony offense” (quoting *In re J.S.* (2024) 100 Cal.App.4th 246, 259–260).

## **Alternatives Considered**

The committee considered taking no action but chose to advance this proposal because it will help probation departments and juvenile courts comply with the new record sealing process mandated by AB 1877. In addition, without the recommended proposal several existing forms would be inaccurate or misleading.

The committee discussed whether to add a finding to form JV-921 concerning the one-year limitation in section 788(a)(2) for probation to file a petition to seal. Because section 788 does not require the court to make a specific determination that the petition was filed timely, the committee decided not to make it a required finding. The committee also felt that the courts have other ways, such as sanctions, to address missed deadlines.

The committee also discussed whether section 788 would apply in circumstances other than when a person had not successfully completed probation as the statute does not specifically require this finding. As the other sealing laws under sections 781, 786 and 786.5 appear to address all other sealing requests, the committee was not aware of any other circumstances where section 788 would apply.

## **Fiscal and Operational Impacts**

Fiscal and operational impacts are likely to be minor, as the proposal is limited to the adoption of two optional forms and revisions to a mandatory form and three optional forms. Expected costs including training, case management system updates, and the production of new forms, are derived from the legislation.

## Request for Specific Comments

In addition to comments on the proposal as a whole, the advisory committee is interested in comments on the following:

- Does the proposal appropriately address the stated purpose?
- Should the one-year filing requirement under section 788(a)(2) be included in the list of eligibility findings on form JV-921?
- Should information be added to either form JV-920 or JV-921, specifically including a section to list juvenile records sealed prior to the filing of a request for sealing under section 788?

The advisory committee also seeks comments from *courts* on the following cost and implementation matters:

- Would the proposal provide cost savings? If so, please quantify.
- What would the implementation requirements be for courts—for example, training staff (please identify position and expected hours of training), revising processes and procedures (please describe), changing docket codes in case management systems, or modifying case management systems?
- Would two months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date provide sufficient time for implementation?
- How well would this proposal work in courts of different sizes?

## Attachments and Links

1. Cal. Rules of Court, rules 5.830, 5.840, and 5.860, at pages 9–10
2. Forms JV-591, JV-592, JV-595-INFO, JV-596-INFO, JV-920, and JV-921, at pages 11–22
3. Link A: Welf. & Inst. Code, § 781,  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=781.&nodeTreePath=3.1.2.29&lawCode=WIC](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=781.&nodeTreePath=3.1.2.29&lawCode=WIC)
4. Link B: Welf. & Inst. Code, § 786,  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=786.&nodeTreePath=3.1.2.29&lawCode=WIC](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=786.&nodeTreePath=3.1.2.29&lawCode=WIC)
5. Link C: Welf. & Inst. Code, § 786.5,  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=786.5.&nodeTreePath=3.1.2.29&lawCode=WIC](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=786.5.&nodeTreePath=3.1.2.29&lawCode=WIC)
6. Link D: Welf. & Inst. Code, § 788,  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=788&lawCode=WIC](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=788&lawCode=WIC)



1 (A) If the individual's records have not been sealed under section 786 or  
2 788, form JV-595-INFO, *How to Ask the Court to Seal Your Records*,  
3 and form JV-595, *Request to Seal Juvenile Records*; or  
4

5 (B) If the individual's records have been sealed under section 786 or 788,  
6 form JV-596-INFO, *Sealing of Records ~~for Satisfactory~~ After*  
7 *Completion of Probation*, and a copy of the sealing order.  
8

9 (c)–(e) \*\*\*  
10

11  
12 **Rule 5.840. Dismissal of petition and sealing of records (§ 786)**  
13

14 (a)–(d) \*\*\*  
15

16 (e) **Distribution of order**  
17

18 The clerk of the issuing court must send a copy of the order to each agency and  
19 official listed in the order and provide a copy of the order to the individual whose  
20 records have been sealed and ~~his or her~~ the individual's attorney. The court ~~shall~~  
21 must also provide or instruct the probation department to provide the individual  
22 with form JV-596-INFO, *Sealing of Records ~~for Satisfactory~~ After Completion of*  
23 *Probation*.  
24

25 (f) \*\*\*  
26

27  
28 **Rule 5.860. Prosecuting attorney request to access sealed juvenile case files**  
29

30 (a) **Applicability**  
31

32 This rule applies when a prosecuting attorney is seeking to access, inspect, utilize,  
33 or disclose a record that has been sealed by the court under sections 781, 786, 788,  
34 or 793, or Penal Code section 851.7, and the attorney has reason to believe that  
35 access to the record is necessary to meet the attorney's statutory or constitutional  
36 obligation to disclose favorable or exculpatory evidence to a defendant in a  
37 criminal case.  
38

39 (b)–(d) \*\*\*  
40  
41  
42

AGENCY: NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS:	FOR COURT USE ONLY
<b>SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF</b> STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:	
CASE NAME:	CLERK'S USE ONLY
<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF JUVENILE RECORD SEALED</b>	CASE NUMBER:

INSTRUCTIONS: Under Welfare and Institutions Code sections 781, 786, and 788, agencies must advise the court of their compliance with the court's sealing order. Please return this completed *Acknowledgment of Juvenile Record Sealed* to the court upon sealing of the records.

1. TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT: I certify that the records ordered to be sealed by the court have been sealed and a copy of this acknowledgment of record sealed has been sent to the court advising the court of compliance with its order.
  
2. Date of Court Order:
  
3. Child's Name:
  
4. Agency Name:

Date:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type or Print Your Name



\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

**JV-592**

**Prosecutor Request for Access to Sealed Juvenile Case File**

Clerk stamps date here when form is filed.

Fill in court name and street address:

**Superior Court of California, County of**

**Juvenile Case Number:**

1 Petitioner (name): \_\_\_\_\_

is a prosecuting attorney requesting access to information in the sealed juvenile court file of:

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Case Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2 Petitioner has reason to believe that access is necessary to meet the constitutional obligation to disclose favorable or exculpatory evidence to a:

defendant (name): \_\_\_\_\_

in a criminal case (case number): \_\_\_\_\_

3 The file was sealed by the court pursuant to (check one):

- a.  Penal Code section 851.7.
- b.  Welfare and Institutions Code section 781.
- c.  Welfare and Institutions Code section 793.
- d.  Welfare and Institutions Code section 786.
- e.  Welfare and Institutions Code section 788.

I am filing *Notice of Prosecutor Request for Access to Sealed Juvenile Case File* (form JV-593) with this petition to be served on the subject of the file and their attorney of record.

4 The records I need access to are:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Continued on Attachment 4

5 The reasons that I need access to those records are (include the relationship of the subject of the records to the defendant in the criminal case):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Continued on Attachment 5

Date needed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Signature

If you were arrested or subject to a court proceeding or had contact with the juvenile justice system when you were under 18, there may be records kept by courts, police, schools, or other public agencies about what you did. If the court makes those records private (**sealed**), it could be easier for you to:

- Find a job.
- Get a driver's license.
- Get a loan.
- Rent an apartment.
- Go to college.

### What happens when my records are sealed?

Once your records are sealed, only specified people in certain situations are allowed to see them. Otherwise, no one can look at your sealed records. In addition, none of the events of your sealed records legally ever happened, so you don't need to let anyone know about them, except in certain unusual situations.

### If the court sealed your records when probation was terminated, you do not need to ask for them to be sealed.

There are **several** ways that records may be sealed in California. **Juvenile courts, for example**, are required to seal records in certain cases when the court finds that probation (formal or informal) is satisfactorily completed or if your case was otherwise dismissed after the petition was filed. If the court sealed your records at the end of your case, you should have received a copy of the sealing order, and you do not need to ask the court to seal the records in that sealing order.

### If you satisfactorily completed a probation diversion program, your records will be sealed by probation.

If you participate in a diversion program or other supervision program instead of going to court, and the probation department determines that you satisfactorily completed that program, the probation department will seal your probation department records and the records for any

program you were required to complete, and notify the law enforcement agency to seal its arrest records. If the probation department determines that you did not satisfactorily complete the program, it will not seal those records, but will give you a form to tell you why and a form that you can use to tell the court why you think you did satisfactorily complete the program. If the court agrees with you, it will order your records sealed. Once your records have been sealed probation will send you a notice of the sealing.

### What if I did not satisfactorily complete probation?

If you are no longer on probation once you turn 18, the probation department is required to ask the court to seal any unsealed records, even if you did not complete probation satisfactorily. However, if you are still on probation when you turn 18, the probation department can wait up to one year after your probation ends to ask the court to seal your records. You will receive a copy of the form that the probation department submits to the court to ask for your records to be sealed. The probation department must notify you if it does not ask the court to seal your records. After the court receives the form, it will notify you which additional records it has ordered sealed.

If you have more than one juvenile case or contact and/or are unsure if your records were sealed by the court, ask your attorney or probation officer or the juvenile court clerk in the county where you had a case or contact.

For more information about when the court seals your records at the completion of probation, see *Sealing of Records After Completion of Probation* (form **JV-596-INFO**).

### What if I have other records that still haven't been sealed?

If **you still have records** that the court has not already sealed, you can ask the court to **seal those records as well** if:

- You are at least **18** or it has been at least five years since your case was closed; and
- You have been rehabilitated to the satisfaction of the court.



**What if I owe restitution or fines?**

The court may seal your records even if you have not paid your full restitution order to the victim. The court will not consider outstanding **restitution** when deciding whether to seal your records, but you are still required to pay **your** restitution, and your records can be looked at to enforce those orders.

**Who does not qualify to have their records sealed?**

- You do not qualify to have your records sealed if your case was transferred to criminal court and you were convicted as an adult of any offense.
- You do not qualify to have your records sealed if you were convicted as an adult for any felony.
- You do not qualify to have your records sealed if you were convicted as an adult of an offense involving moral turpitude, such as:
  - A sex or serious drug crime;
  - Murder or other violent crime; or
  - Forgery, welfare fraud, or other crime of dishonesty.
- You do not qualify to have your records sealed if, when you were 14 or older, the court found that you committed a sex offense listed in Welfare and Institutions Code section 707(b) for which you must register under Penal Code section 290.008 because you were paroled from the Division of Juvenile Justice or any offense listed in Welfare and Institutions Code section 707(b), unless that offense was reduced to a misdemeanor or an offense not listed in that section.

If you are unsure if you qualify, ask your attorney.

**Who can see my sealed records?**

Once your records are sealed, no one can look at them, except for certain people and only under specific situations. The court will also order your sealed records to be destroyed after a certain date. Once your records are destroyed, they will no longer exist. The following people and agencies are allowed to look at your records in certain situations before they are destroyed.

- The juvenile court.
- The prosecutor.
- The probation department.
- Your attorney.
- The child welfare agency.
- The Department of Justice.
- The Department of Motor Vehicles.

If you want to see your records or allow someone else to see them, you can ask the court to unseal them.

**Can employers see my records if they are not sealed?**

Juvenile records are not allowed to be disclosed to most employers, and employers are not allowed to ask about or consider your juvenile history in most cases. There are exceptions to this rule if you are applying to be a peace officer or to work in health settings. Also, federal employers may still have access to your juvenile history. You should seek legal advice if you have questions about what an employer can ask about you.

**How do I ask to seal any of my records that have not already been sealed?**

- ① You must fill out a court form. Form [JV-595](#), *Request to Seal Juvenile Records* can be used, or your court may have a local form.
- ② When you file your petition, the probation department will compile a list of every law enforcement agency, entity, or person the probation department knows has a record of your case, as well as a list of any prior contacts with law enforcement or probation, and will attach it to your petition.



**JV-595-INFO** How to Ask the Court to Seal Your Records

- ③ If you think there are agencies that might have records on you that were never sent to probation, you need to name those agencies, or the court will not know to seal those records.

If you are not sure what contacts you might have had with law enforcement, you can get your criminal history record from the Department of Justice. See <http://oag.ca.gov/fingerprints/security> for more information.

- ④ Take your completed form to the probation department where you were on probation. (If you were not on probation, take your form to any county probation office where you have a juvenile record.) *Note:* A small number of counties require you to take your form to the court. More information on each county's specific requirements is available at

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

- ⑤ Probation will review your form and submit it to the court within 90 days, or 180 days if you have records in two or more counties.

- ⑥ The court will review your petition. The court may decide right away to seal your juvenile records, or the court may order a hearing. If there is a hearing, you will receive a notice in the mail with the date, time, and location of the hearing. If the notice says your hearing is "unopposed" (meaning there is no disagreement with your request), you may choose not to go.

- ⑦ If you qualify to have your juvenile records sealed, the court will make an order to seal the eligible records listed on your petition.

***Important!*** The court can seal only records it knows about. Make sure you list *all* records from *all* counties where you have any records. The court will tell you if it does not seal records from another court that were listed on your petition, and you will need to file a petition in that county to seal those records.

- ⑧ If the court grants your request, it will order each agency, entity, or person on your list to seal your records. The court will also order the records destroyed by a certain date. If the sealed records are for a section 707(b) offense committed when you were 14 or older, the court will not order those records destroyed.

- ⑨ The court will provide you with a copy of its order. Be sure to keep it in a safe place.

### What about sex offender registration? (Pen. Code, § 290)

If the court seals a record that required you to register as a sex offender, the order will say you do **not** have to continue to register.

### If my records are sealed, do I have to report the offenses in the sealed records on job, school, or other applications?

**No.** Once your records are sealed, the law treats those offenses as if they never occurred and you do not need to report them. **However**, the military and some federal agencies may not recognize sealing of records and may be aware of your juvenile justice history, even if your records are sealed. If you want to enlist in the military or apply for a job requiring you to provide information about your juvenile records, seek legal advice about this issue.

### Questions

If you are not sure if you qualify to seal your records or if you have other questions, talk to a lawyer. The court is not allowed to give you legal advice. More information about sealing your records can be found at

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

**JV-596-INFO** Sealing of Records **After** Completion of Probation**In many cases, the court will seal your juvenile records if you satisfactorily complete probation (formal or informal supervision).**

If your case is terminated by the juvenile court because you satisfactorily completed your probation (formal or informal), or if your case was otherwise dismissed after a petition was filed, in many cases the court will have dismissed the petition(s) and sealed your records. If the court sealed your records for this reason, you should have received a copy of the sealing order with this form.

If the court finds you have not satisfactorily completed your probation, it will not dismiss your case and will not seal your records. However, some of these records may be sealed after you turn 18 when you are no longer on probation. If you still have records that have not immediately been sealed after you complete probation, you will need to ask the court to seal your records at a later date (see *How to Ask the Court to Seal Your Records (form JV-595-INFO)*) for information about asking the court to seal your records).

The court will not seal your records at the end of your case if you were found to have committed an offense listed in Welfare and Institutions Code section 707(b) (a violent offense such as murder, rape, or kidnapping, and some offenses involving drugs or weapons) when you were 14 or older unless it was dismissed or reduced to a misdemeanor or a lesser offense not listed in 707(b). Unless you were found to have committed one or more of certain sex offenses, you can ask the court to seal your records at age 18 (or age 21 if you were committed to the Division of Juvenile Justice).

**How will the court decide if probation is satisfactorily completed?**

If you have done what you were ordered to do while on probation and have not been found to have committed any further crimes (either a felony or a misdemeanor crime involving moral turpitude, such as a sex crime or a crime involving dishonesty), the court will find that your probation was satisfactorily completed even if you still owe restitution or court-ordered fines, **BUT...**

**Restitution must still be paid.**

Even if your records are sealed, you must still pay your restitution. Your sealed records can be looked at to enforce those orders.

**What if I did not complete probation satisfactorily?**

If you did not follow all the court's orders while you were on probation but have not been convicted of any felony offense or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, probation must ask the court to seal those records once you turn 18. If you are still on probation when you turn 18, probation can wait for up to a year before it asks the court to seal your records. The court will notify you about any additional records it has ordered sealed.

**Which records will be sealed?**

The court will order probation, Department of Justice, and law enforcement agency records sealed for the case the court is closing, and earlier cases, if the court determines you are eligible. The court will also seal its own records. If you satisfactorily completed probation, you or your attorney can ask the court to seal records of other agencies (such as the District Attorney's Office) if it finds that doing so would help you to be rehabilitated. If you complete probation after your 18th birthday, (whether satisfactorily or not), the court will order all agencies to seal records of any eligible cases.

If you have more than one juvenile case and are unsure which records were sealed, ask your attorney or probation officer.

**Who can see my sealed records?**

- If the prosecutor, the probation department, or the court need to determine if you are eligible to participate in a deferred entry of judgment or informal supervision program, they may look at your records.
- If you apply for benefits as a nonminor dependent, the court may see your records.



**JV-596-INFO** Sealing of Records **After** Completion of Probation

- If a new petition is filed against you for a felony offense, probation can look at what programs you were in but cannot use that information to keep you in juvenile hall or to punish you.
- If the juvenile court finds you have committed a felony, your sealed records can be viewed to decide what disposition (sentence) the court should order.
- If you are arrested for a new offense and the prosecuting attorney asks the court to transfer you to adult court, your record can be reviewed to decide if transfer is appropriate.
- If you are in foster care, the child welfare agency can look at your records to determine where you should live and what services you need.
- If your case was dismissed before you became a ward, the prosecutor can look at your records for six months after the dismissal in order to refile the dismissed petition based on new information or evidence.
- If you are not allowed to have a gun because of your offense, the Department of Justice can look at your records to make sure you do not buy or own a gun.
- If a prosecutor thinks something in your record would be helpful to someone who is charged with a crime in another case, the prosecutor can ask the court to provide that information, whether you completed your probation satisfactorily or not. If this request is made, the court will let you know. You and your attorney may object.
- If a new petition is filed against you and the issue of your competency to participate in your new case is raised, the probation department, prosecutor, your attorney, and the court can look at your prior competency-related records to assess your current ability to understand and participate in the juvenile court proceedings.
- If a judge or prosecutor needs to determine if a victim of certain offenses was helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the offense when the victim is seeking certification in connection with an immigration matter, they may access your records to make this determination.
- If you did not complete probation successfully and your records were not sealed once you turned 18, the court may see your records if it needs to know about your juvenile court history because a petition to resume juvenile court jurisdiction has been filed pursuant to section 388.
- If you want to see your records or allow someone else to see them, you can ask the court to unseal them.

*NOTE:* Even if someone looks at your records in one of these situations, your records will stay sealed and you do not need to ask the court to seal them again.

**Do I have to report the offenses in the sealed records on job, school, or other applications?**

**No.** Once your records are sealed, the law treats those offenses as if they never occurred and you do not need to report them. **However,** the military and some federal agencies may not recognize sealing of records and may be aware of your juvenile justice history, even if your records are sealed. If you want to enlist in the military or apply for a job that asks you to provide information about your juvenile records, seek legal advice about this issue.

**Can employers see my records if they are not sealed?**

Juvenile records are not allowed to be disclosed to most employers, and employers are not allowed to ask about or consider your juvenile history in most cases. There are exceptions to this rule if you are applying to be a peace officer or to work in health settings. Also, federal employers may still have access to your juvenile history. You should seek legal advice if you have questions about what an employer can ask.

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY STATE BAR NUMBER: NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	<b>FOR COURT USE ONLY</b>
<b>SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF</b> STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:	
CASE NAME:	
<b>REQUEST TO SEAL JUVENILE RECORDS— WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 788</b>	CASE NUMBER:
This form may be used by probation officers to request the sealing of records under Welfare and Institutions Code section 788. To be eligible for sealing: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The person whose records are to be sealed must have reached 18 years of age; and</li> <li>2. The request must be filed after jurisdiction was terminated by the juvenile delinquency court.</li> </ol>	

**1. Name of probation officer:**

**2. Information about the person whose records are to be sealed**

- a. Name:
- b. Date of birth:
- c. Date of termination of juvenile delinquency jurisdiction:

**3. Eligibility for sealing**

- a. The person has not been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude after the termination of delinquency jurisdiction.
- b. The records listed in item 4 do not relate to:
  - (1) A criminal court conviction based on a case transferred to criminal court under Welfare and Institutions Code section 707.1.
  - (2) An offense under Welfare and Institutions Code section 707(b) when the person was at least 14 years old, unless the offense was later dismissed or reduced to a misdemeanor or lesser offense not listed in that section.
  - (3) An offense that requires the person to register under Penal Code section 290.008.

**4. Request for sealing**

I request that the court seal all records relating to the following offenses:

	<u>Petition/Case Number</u>	<u>Arresting Agency</u>	<u>Incident Number</u>	<u>Offense Date(s)</u>	<u>Violation(s)</u>
a.					
b.					
c.					



CASE NAME:	CASE NUMBER:
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	Petition/Case Number	Arresting Agency	Incident Number	Offense Date(s)	Violation(s)
d.					
e.					
f.					

5. The records listed in item 4 are in the custody of (check all that apply):

- a.  Law enforcement agencies (specify):
- b.  Probation department (specify):
- c.  California Department of Justice
- d.  District attorney (specify):
- e.  Other public agencies (specify):
- f.  Private agencies (specify):

6. Required notice

- a. The person whose records are to be sealed and that person's attorney were given a copy of this request at least 30 days before this request was filed.
- b. The prosecuting attorney was given at least 15 days notice of this request.

7. Attachments (number of pages, if any): \_\_\_\_\_

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Probation Officer

[SEAL]

**CLERK'S CERTIFICATE**

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original on file in my office.



Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk, by \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY STATE BAR NUMBER: NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR ( <i>name</i> ):	FOR COURT USE ONLY
<b>SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF</b> STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:	
CASE NAME:	
<b>ORDER ON REQUEST TO SEAL JUVENILE RECORDS—                  WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 788</b>	CASE NUMBER:

1. **Name of probation officer:**

2. **Information about the person whose records are to be sealed**

- a. Name of person:
- b. Date of birth:
- c. Date of termination of juvenile delinquency jurisdiction:

3. **Court hearing**

- a.  No hearing was held
- b.  A hearing was held  
 Date of hearing: Dept.: Judicial officer (*name*):

4. **Court order**

- a.  The court finds that the person is eligible for record sealing under Welfare and Institutions Code section 788 because:
  - (1) The person is at least 18 years old and no longer under the jurisdiction of the juvenile delinquency court;
  - (2) Proper notice was provided to the person, their attorney (if any), and the prosecuting attorney; and
  - (3) The person has not been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude since the termination of delinquency jurisdiction.



CASE NAME:	CASE NUMBER:
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4. b. Court order on request to seal records for the specified offenses:

	<u>Request to Seal</u>	<u>Petition/ Case No.</u>	<u>Arresting Agency</u>	<u>Incident Number</u>	<u>Offense Date(s)</u>	<u>Violation(s)</u>
(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Granted <input type="checkbox"/> Denied					
(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Granted <input type="checkbox"/> Denied					
(3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Granted <input type="checkbox"/> Denied					
(4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Granted <input type="checkbox"/> Denied					
(5)	<input type="checkbox"/> Granted <input type="checkbox"/> Denied					
(6)	<input type="checkbox"/> Granted <input type="checkbox"/> Denied					

c.  Reason for denial of sealing (*if applicable*):

5. **Agencies required to seal**

Each agency below must seal this order and all records in its custody related to the offenses granted sealing in item 4. The agency must also send notice to the court that it has complied with this order.

- a.  Law enforcement agencies (*specify*):
- b.  Probation department (*specify*):
- c.  California Department of Justice
- d.  District attorney (*specify*):
- e.  Other public agencies (*specify*):
- f.  Private agencies (*specify*):



CASE NAME:	CASE NUMBER:
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**6. Deadline for destruction of sealed records**

All records identified in this order must be destroyed by the dates provided below.

- a.  The person was alleged or adjudicated to be a person described in Welfare and Institutions Code section 601.  
The sealed records must be destroyed by *(date)*:
  
- b.  The person was alleged or adjudicated to be described in Welfare and Institutions Code section 602 for the commission of an offense not listed in Welfare and Institutions Code section 707(b).  
The sealed records must be destroyed by *(date)*:
  
- c.  The court finds good cause to retain the following sealed records:
  
- d.  Date all other records must be destroyed:

**7. Effect of Sealing**

The proceedings are treated as if they never happened, and the person may respond to any questions as if they did not happen.

- 8. The court clerk must send a certified copy of this order to the clerk in each county in which a record is ordered sealed and one copy each to the person whose records have been ordered sealed, their attorney (if any), and the agencies listed in item 5.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judicial Officer

**CLERK'S CERTIFICATE**

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original on file in my office.

[SEAL]

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk, by \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy