

How to File a Petition for Limited Access under the Clean Slate Law

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COURT SELF HELP CENTER

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Clean Slate Law

What is the Clean Slate Law?

Pennsylvania's Clean Slate Law went into effect on December 25, 2018. Under this law (Act 56 of 2018) an individual may petition the court for an order of limited access to his/her criminal history record information, if the individual has been free for 10 years from conviction of offenses punishable by a year or more in prison and has completed all court-ordered obligations for these offenses. The criminal history records will not be expunged, but only criminal justice and law enforcement agencies will have access to them.

For detailed information on what types of offenses are and are not eligible for limited access under Clean Slate, please see the Clean Slate, Expungement and Limited Access section of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania's website, www.pacourts.us/learn

How do I file a limited access petition?

A petition for an order for limited access and an order for limited access are included in this packet. You must fill out the petition, and then you will file the petition and the order in the Clerk of Courts office. The filing fee, as of 1/1/2019, is \$137.00. **Please note: a judge will not review the petition if the order is not attached.** The Clerk's Office will forward the petition to the District Attorney's office for their review. If the DA's office does not object to the petition, a judge will sign the order. If the DA's office objects to the petition, a judge will schedule a hearing on the matter.

If you are not sure if you qualify for a limited access order, or if you need assistance in completing the petition, please consult an attorney. Neither the staff in the Court Self Help Center nor the staff in any Court office will be able to give you legal advice or help you fill out the form. If you want to obtain the services of an attorney but do not know whom to contact, you may call the Lawyer Referral Service at 717-393-0737 or Mid Penn Legal Services at 717-299-0971.