

If you're looking to [clear your criminal record in Missouri](#), an expungement can offer a fresh start. The process includes specific steps and requirements. Our Expungement Checklist outlines the actions you need to take, from determining eligibility to filing the necessary paperwork, so you can have confidence as you take the steps to move on with your life. Remember, *always* consult with an [experienced criminal defense attorney](#) before heading into court.

1. Determine Your Eligibility

- Review Missouri's list of expungable offenses. Certain violent felonies, sex offenses, and DUIs, among others, may not be eligible.
- Confirm that enough time has passed since completing your sentence. Missouri typically requires a waiting period of 3 years for misdemeanors and 7 years for felonies.
- Ensure that you have no pending charges and have maintained a clean record since completing your sentence.

2. Gather Required Documentation

- Obtain certified copies of your criminal record and case disposition. You can request these from the court where your case was processed.
- Collect any necessary forms, such as the [Petition for Expungement](#) available through the Missouri courts.
- Gather records showing proof of completion of your sentence (e.g., probation or parole records).

3. Speak to a Criminal Defense Lawyer Experienced in Expungements

- A [criminal defense lawyer](#) can help you understand your eligibility and the specifics of [Missouri's expungement laws](#).
- An attorney can guide you through the required forms and ensure all documentation is accurate and complete.
- With legal representation, you'll be better prepared for the hearing and can present a compelling argument for why you deserve a clean record.

4. Complete the Petition for Expungement

- Carefully fill out the petition, providing details about each offense you seek to expunge.
- Attach certified copies of relevant records, as required.
- Make sure all information is accurate and complete; errors could delay or jeopardize your petition.

5. File the Petition in the Correct Court

- Submit the completed petition to the court that handled your original case.
- Pay any associated filing fees (fees vary by jurisdiction but are generally around \$250).

- Consider applying for a fee waiver if you're unable to afford the filing costs.

6. Notify All Required Parties

- Serve copies of your petition to the appropriate parties, which may include
 - The prosecuting attorney who handled your case
 - The Missouri State Highway Patrol (if your record is in their database)
 - Other relevant agencies, as instructed by the court
- Keep proof of service for your records, as the court will require it.

7. Prepare for the Court Hearing

- Review the details of your case and be ready to explain why expungement would benefit you and your community.
- Gather letters of recommendation or any evidence showing positive life changes since the conviction.

8. Attend the Expungement Hearing

- Arrive early and dress appropriately for court.
- Be prepared to answer questions from the judge regarding your case and your reason for seeking expungement.
- Present any additional documents or testimony that could support your request.
- Be prepared for any victim of your crime to be present and testify.

9. Follow Up on the Court's Decision

- If the judge grants the expungement, obtain a certified copy of the order for your records.
- Check with the Missouri State Highway Patrol and other relevant agencies to confirm they've updated their records.
- If denied, review the court's reasoning and consider reapplying after addressing the issues mentioned in the denial.

10. Maintain a Clean Record Moving Forward

- Avoid any new arrests or criminal charges, as they could make you ineligible for future expungement.
- Update personal records and background check information to reflect your expunged record.

Looking to Clear Your Criminal Record? Call Combs Waterkotte's Expungement Lawyers

Expungement can open doors to new opportunities, but the process requires careful attention to detail. For more guidance on your expungement petition, or if you need representation, contact Combs Waterkotte to discuss your case. You can call us at [wdac-phone] or [contact us online](#).