TO OBTAIN SEALING/EXPUNGING
CERTIFICATION PACKAGES, TO REVIEW
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, AND FOR
CONTACT INFORMATION PLEASE GO TO
THE FDLE WEBSITE AT:

http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Seal-and-Expunge-Process/Seal-and-Expunge-Home.aspx

FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS CAN ALSO BE PRINTED FROM THE CLERK OF COURTS WEBSITE AT:

www.duvalclerk.gov

FORMS PROVIDED AS A COURTESY OF THE STATE ATTORNEYS OFFICE.

Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida Duval County Courthouse Jacksonville, Florida 32202

STATE ATTORNEY Tel: (904)255-2500

Email: sao4duvalcriminal@coj.net

JODY PHILLIPS CLERK OF COURT Tel: (904)255-2000

Fax: (904)255-2247

INSTRUCTIONS

If a Felony charge has originated out of a Misdemeanor arrest/incident or vice versa, you will need to include both case numbers on the Petition and the Order for the Judge. Refer to Florida Statute 943.0585 and 943.059.

Send ONLY the FDLE Application, fingerprint card, certified disposition and \$75.00 money order to:

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT Attn: Quality Control Section 2331 Phillips Road PO Box 1489 Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1489

If approved, you will receive a blue Certificate of Eligibility from FDLE.

Once you have the certificate, fill out the blanks on the Petition to Expunge or seal, Affidavit, and Judge's Order. MAKE SURE YOU SIGN THE PETITION. (You may want to retype these forms but it is not mandatory. If you choose to write them, please make it legible! NOTE: MOST JUDGES WILL NOT ACCEPT FILLED IN COPY OF RULE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE).

Make a copy of each document (Affidavit, Petition to Expunge or Seal, judge's Order and Certificate of Eligibility). Mail or hand deliver the ORIGINAL documents to the Courthouse:

Duval County Courthouse 501 West Adams Street Jacksonville, Florida 32202 (Misdemeanor-Room 1223; Felony-Room 2136)

Mail or hand deliver the COPIES to:

State Attorney's Office C/O Seal/Expunge Division 311 W. Monroe Street, 1st Floor Jacksonville, Florida 32202

BE ADVISED THIS PROCESS TAKES SEVERAL MONTHS

1. How do I have a criminal history record sealed or expunged?

Florida Statutes, s.943.0585 and s.943.059, set forth the criteria that must be met in order to be eligible to have <u>an adult</u> criminal history record sealed or expunged. In addition, these statutes also state that in order to have a criminal history record sealed or expunged within the State of Florida, an individual must first make application to the FDLE for a Certificate of Eligibility. Please note that the issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility does not mean that your criminal history record will be ordered sealed or expunged. It merely indicates that you are statutorily eligible for the type of relief that is being requested. The criminal history record of a minor may also be eligible for other forms of expunction, as noted at Question No. 14, below.

2. Where can I find the application for Certification of Eligibility?

The FDLE provides applications for Certification of Eligibility to the Clerk of Courts in all sixty-seven (67) counties throughout the State of Florida. These application packages may be obtained from the criminal division within each county courthouse. Please contact your local county Clerk's office for additional information. If you reside outside the State of Florida, you may request that an application package be mailed to you.

3. Why do I have a criminal history record when the charges against me were dropped/dismissed?

The Florida Legislature has determined that Florida criminal history records are public unless the record is sealed or expunged. See Section 943.053(3), Florida Statutes, which provides for public access to criminal history records. The term "criminal history information" is defined, tracking the federal definition, at Section 943.045(4), Florida Statutes. A criminal history record is created when a person is arrested and fingerprinted, and includes the disposition of that arrest, whether it is a conviction, acquittal, dismissal of charges before trial, or other disposition.

4. Should I obtain a copy of my criminal history record prior to applying for a Certificate

of Eligibility?

Under Florida and federal law, an individual has the right to request a copy of his or her criminal history record for purposes of review, to ensure that it is both accurate and complete. This process is known as a Personal Review. The requestor may examine the record obtained through Personal Review for accuracy and to challenge any information contained within the criminal history record that the record subject believes is inaccurate or incomplete. No charge is assessed by FDLE for this service. See s.943.056, Florida Statutes. A Personal Review allows an individual to determine which, if any, date(s) of arrest the applicant will be eligible to have sealed or expunged. However, obtaining a personal review is not a prerequisite to applying for a certificate of eligibility to seal or expunge a criminal history record.

5. What is the difference between having a criminal history record sealed vs. expunged?

When a criminal history record is sealed, the public will not have access to it. Certain governmental or related entities, primarily those listed in s. 943.059(4)(a), Florida Statutes, have access to sealed record information in its entirety. When a record has been expunged, those entities which would have access to a sealed record will be informed that the subject of the record has had a record expunged, but would not have access to the record itself without a court order. All they would receive is a caveat statement indicating that "Criminal Information has been Expunged from this Record".

6. When is my criminal history record sealed or expunged?

Once an order has been issued by the court of competent jurisdiction to seal or expunge your criminal history record and a certified copy of this order has been received by the FDLE, it will be complied with in accordance with state statutes.

7. How many dates of arrest can I have sealed or expunged?

The eligibility criteria for an applicant to have a record sealed or expunged include the requirement that the applicant be able to attest that he or she has never previously had a record sealed or expunged in Florida or in another jurisdiction. This means, in effect, that a person may only seal or expunge one arrest record in one proceeding. More than one record may be sealed or expunged in the same proceeding if the court, in its sole discretion, finds the arrests to be directly related.

A record that is initially ineligible for expunction (e.g., where adjudication is withheld) may become eligible after it has been sealed for 10 years. However, a person may not seal or expunge one arrest record and then, later and in a different proceeding, ask to have a different arrest record sealed or expunged. An expunction or sealing which occurs automatically or by operation of law, without any action on the part of the record subject, is not considered a prior expunction or sealing for this purpose. By law, s. 943.0582(8), Florida Statutes, a juvenile diversion expunge does not prevent the record subject from seeking a judicial expunction or sealing under s. 943.0585 or s. 943.059, Florida Statutes.

8. What charges may not be sealed?

A list of charges that may not be sealed when adjudication is withheld is included with the application package, and is also enumerated in s. 943.059, Florida Statutes. (The same listing is found in s. 943.0585, because the specified offenses may not be expunged either.) In addition, if a person has been adjudicated guilty of any criminal offense in any jurisdiction (or adjudicated delinquent for any felony or for certain specified misdemeanors), whether or not related to the charge(s) that the person is applying for, the record is ineligible for sealing and the application will be denied.

9. What charges may be expunged?

The same eligibility requirements which apply to sealing also apply to expunction, with certain additional requirements. Any charge, which resulted in a withholding of adjudication or in an acquittal (not guilty verdict) after trial, may not be expunged unless and until it has first been sealed for at least 10 years. See s. 943.0585(2)(h), Florida Statutes. A charge which was dismissed before trial (e.g., no information, nolle prosequi,

no bill, etc.) may be expunged immediately provided all charges related to the arrest were so disposed of, and the record is otherwise eligible.

10. Can I appeal the denial of my application for a Certificate of Eligibility to seal or expunge my criminal history record?

If you believe that the denial of your application for Certification of Eligibility is in error, you may ask that the denial be reviewed. If the denial is based on information in your criminal history record that is believed to be in error or incomplete, the procedure for reviewing and correcting that record is given in Rule 11C-8.001, Florida Administrative Code. If you agree that the criminal history information is correct, but believe that the law has been incorrectly applied or interpreted in your case, you may appeal the decision of the FDLE. The appeal of a denial is to be handled within the court of competent jurisdiction.

11. If I receive a full pardon can I have my criminal history record sealed or expunged?

Unless the pardon indicates on its face that it entitles the record subject to seal or expunge his or her criminal history record, the granting of a full pardon does not remove any condition of ineligibility for sealing or expunging a criminal history record imposed by the disposition of the pardoned offense. See **R.J.L. v. State**, 887 So.2d 1268 (Fla. 2004).

12. If I receive clemency, will my record be automatically expunged?

No. Neither a full pardon, nor any other type of clemency, will automatically expunge or facilitate the expungement of your criminal record. You should contact the Florida Department of Law Enforcement at seal-expunge@fdle.state.fl.us for information on the expungement or sealing of records.

13. If I have my civil rights restored, will my criminal history record disappear?

No. In order to have your civil rights restored you had to have been convicted (adjudicated guilty) of a felony that was the basis for your loss of civil rights. Persons who have been convicted (adjudicated guilty) of a felony are not eligible for a seal or expunge of their criminal history under Florida law, regardless of whether their civil rights have been restored.

14. Do I have to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility to have my juvenile criminal history record sealed or expunged?

The following considerations are relevant to the decision whether to seek the judicial sealing or expunction of a juvenile criminal history record. Prior to October 1, 1994, juvenile arrest records were not maintained by FDLE in the criminal history record system. Juvenile arrests for felonies prior to October 1, 1994, and juvenile arrests for misdemeanors prior to July 1, 1996, are not available to the general public unless the juvenile was treated as an adult. Juvenile records are subject to an abbreviated retention schedule, if certain qualifications are met, which results in the automatic expunction of the record after a specified period, under s. 943.0515, Florida Statutes. Juvenile defendants who successfully complete a qualified diversion program, as set out in s. 943.0582, Florida Statutes, may be eligible for expunction of their record as the term is defined therein. If a person wishes to pursue the judicial sealing or expunction of his or her juvenile record, the eligibility criteria and procedure, which are similar to those for adults, are found in s. 943.059 and s. 943.0585, Florida Statutes.

15. If I have a criminal history record sealed or expunged in another state or jurisdiction, am I still eligible to have a criminal history record sealed or expunged within the State of Florida?

Yes - Effective July 1, 2013, a previous seal or expunction of a criminal record in a jurisdiction outside the state of Florida will not disqualify an applicant to seal or expunge a Florida criminal history record.

16. How long does it typically take to receive a response from my application for a Certificate of Eligibility?

The current processing time is ninety (90) working days or less from the date the application is received, processed, and mailed back to the customer.

Special Note: If the application is not complete at the time of submission the application will be returned. This will cause the application process to be delayed beyond the ninety (90) working day period.

17. If I had a criminal history record sealed or expunged, and then had it vacated, could I apply to have a new date of arrest sealed or expunged?

As s. 943.0585(2)(f) and s. 943.059(2)(e), Florida Statutes require that an applicant have never secured a prior sealing or expunction of a criminal history record under current or former law, having an earlier seal or expunge order vacated does not remove this disqualification.

18. Will FDLE notify the agencies involved with my case that the record has been sealed or expunged?

If the record is eligible and the court grants relief, FDLE will comply with the certified court order and seal or expunge the appropriate criminal history record. Once FDLE seals or expunges the criminal history record, a notification letter will be sent by FDLE to the arresting agency or agencies involved with your case. The notification letter is to inform the agencies that FDLE has received and has complied with the order in accordance with the seal or expunge statutes.

19. What type of background check is conducted by FDLE to determine my eligibility to have a criminal history record sealed or expunged?

FDLE conducts criminal history record checks in Florida through the Florida Crime

Information Center (FCIC), national record checks through the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), local Court databases, and driving history checks through the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV). These databases are utilized to determine the eligibility of an individual to have a criminal history record sealed or expunged.

20. Why is the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles checked to determine my eligibility to have my criminal history record sealed or expunged?

A criminal offense such as DUI, Driving While License Suspended/canceled/revoked, or reckless driving may appear in the DHSMV database even though it may not be entered in the criminal history record system maintained by FDLE. Although non-criminal traffic offenses (such as careless driving) have no affect on eligibility to seal or expunge a criminal history record, an adjudication of guilty for any criminal offense renders the record ineligible for either form of relief.

21. Who should receive a copy of the order to seal or expunge a criminal history record?

If the record is eligible and the court grants relief, the Clerk of the Court by statute is responsible to certify a copy of the court order to the State Attorney's Office or the Statewide Prosecutors Office and the arresting agency or agencies. The arresting agency is then responsible for sending a certified copy of the court order to all agencies that are known to have received the criminal history information. In addition to FDLE, these agencies may include the Department of Corrections, Teen Courts, and Department of Juvenile Justice.

22. What do I do with my Certificate of Eligibility?

Once FDLE has issued the Certificate of Eligibility to seal or expunge a criminal history record, the next step is to file a petition for relief, along with the Certificate of Eligibility and the required affidavit, in the court in the county of the arrest. The issuance of the Certificate of Eligibility is not the final step in the Sealing/Expunction process, nor does it

guarantee that a criminal history record will be sealed or expunged. The final decision to Seal/Expunge your criminal history is placed by law in the sound discretion of the court.

23. What information is required to complete the application for Certification of Eligibility?

In order to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility to petition the court to seal or expunge a criminal history record, the following requirements must be met pursuant to s.943.0585(2) and s.943.059(2), Florida Statutes:

- A. Section A of the application must be completed and signed in the presence of a notary public.
- B. The applicant must be fingerprinted by authorized law enforcement personnel or a criminal justice agency. The fingerprint card must include the applicant's name, race, sex, date of birth, social security number, and signature, prior to submission to FDLE.
- C. The applicant must provide a certified disposition of the case that he/she is applying to have sealed or expunged.
- D. A NONREFUNDABLE money order or cashier's check for \$75.00 made payable to the FDLE must accompany the application.
- E. If you are requesting an expunction of a criminal history record, the State Attorney or Statewide Prosecutor with jurisdiction over your case must complete Section B of the application. (If not completed, the application will be processed as a sealing of your criminal history record).
- *Special Note: All of the items listed above are required at the time that the application is submitted. If an item is missing or the application or fingerprint card is not completed, the application will be returned unprocessed.

DOCUMENTS FOR EXPUNGING A CASE:

CASE NO.:

	DIVISION
STATE	OF FLORIDA,
	Plaintiff,
vs.	
(Name)),
	Petitioner/Defendant
	PETITION TO EXPUNGE
crimina of the o Jacksor	The Petitioner, (Name)
1.	On , the petitioner, (Name) a
(race/s Jacksor	On, the petitioner, (Name) a sex), whose date of birth is, was arrested by the nville Sheriff's Office for (Charge)
2.	The petitioner has not been adjudicated guilty of nor guilty of committing any of the acts stemming from this arrest or alleged criminal activity.
3.	The petitioner has not been previously adjudicated guilty of criminal offense or a comparable ordinance violation nor adjudicated delinquent for committing a felony or a misdemeanor specified in section 943.0151(3)(b), Florida Statues.
4.	The petitioner has not secured a prior expunction or sealing under section 943.0585 or 943.058, Florida Statues, former section 943.058, Florida Statues, former section 893.14, Florida Statues, or former section 901.33, Florida Statues, or any other law, rule or authority.

5. The petitioner's record has been sealed under section 943.059, Florida Statues, former section 943.058, Florida Statutes, former section 893.14, Florida Statutes, or former section 901.33, Florida Statutes, for at least 10 years; or there has not been an indictment, information or other charging document filed against the petitioner who is the subject of this criminal history record

information; or an indictment, information or other charging document filed against the petitioner who is the subject of this criminal history information was dismissed by the

prosecutor or the court.

6.	A certificate of Eligibility for expunge of nonjudicial Department of Law Enforcement accompanies this	•	
	EFORE, the petitioner moves to expunge any crimina ecords regarding this arrest by the Jacksonville Sheri	·	
	CERTIFICATE OF SE	RVICE	
*I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing pleading has been served on the State Attorney's Office, Forth Judicial Circuit, in and for Duval County, Florida, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office; and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement on this day of			
		Signature	
		Print Name:	
		Address:	
		City/State: Zip:	
		Telephone:	
Cc:	State Attorney's Office Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Florida Department of Law Enforcement Clerk of Courts		

You <u>must</u> give a copy of the Petition, Affidavit, Order and Certificate of Eligibility to the <u>State</u> <u>Attorney's Office</u>, City Hall Annex, 11th Floor. Your petition <u>will not</u> be processed unless the State Attorney's Office has copies of the legal documents.

CASE NO.:		
DIVISION:		
STATE OF FLORIDA,		
Plaintiff,		
VS.		
(Name),		
Petitioner.		
AFFIDAVIT		
STATE OF FLORIDA) COUNTY OF DUVAL)		
I,, am the defendant/petitioner in the above-styled cause		
and I do herby swear or affirm that:		
1. I fully understand the meaning of all of the terms of this affidavit.		
2. I have never been adjudicated guilty of a criminal offense or a comparable ordinance violation nor adjudicated delinquent for committing a felony or misdemeanor specified in section 943.051(3)(b), Florida Statues.		
3. I was arrested on, by the Jacksonville Sheriff's		
Office, and I have not been adjudicated guilty of, nor adjudicated delinquent, for committing any of the acts stemming from that arrest or the alleged criminal activity surrounding my arrest.		
4. I am eligible for the relief request, to the best of my knowledge and belief, and do not have any other petition to expunge or seal pending before any court.		
5. I have never secured a prior record expunction or sealing under any law.		
6. An indictment, Information, or other charging document was not filed against me for the above criminal transaction.		
Signature of Affiant		
Sworn to and subscribed before me this day of,		
NOTARY PUBLIC		

Printed, typed or stamped Commissioned name of Notary Public

	CASE NO.:
	DIVISION_
STATE	OF FLORIDA,
vs.	
(Nam	e)
	Petitioner
	ORDER TO EXPUNGE RECORDS PURSUANT TO SECTION 943.0585 FLORIDA STATUTES AND FLORIDA RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURES 3.692
	THIS CAUSE, having come to be heard before me this date upon petitioner's Petition to Expunge ds concerning this arrest on (date), by the Jacksonville f's Office, and the court being fully advised in the premises, the court hereby finds the following:
1.	The petitioner has never previously been adjudicated guilty of a criminal offense or a comparable ordinance violation.
2.	The petitioner was not adjudicated guilty of charges stemming from the arrest or criminal activity to which the petition pertains.
3.	The petitioner has not secured a prior records expunction or sealing.
	ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the petition to expunge records is hereby granted. All court
	records pertaining to the above-styled case shall be expunged in accordance with the
	procedures set forth in the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedures 3.692, and it is further
	ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the clerk shall forward a certified copy of this order to the State
	Attorney's Office and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, who will comply with the procedures set
	forth in section 943.0585, Florida Statutes, and appropriate regulations of the Department of
	Law Enforcement, and who will further forward a copy of this order to any agency that their
	records reflect has received the instant criminal history record information; and it is further
	ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office shall expunge all information
	concerning indicia of arrest or criminal history record information regarding this petitioner in
	accordance with the procedures set forth in section 943.0585, Florida Statutes and 3.692 FRCP.
All co	sts of certified copies involved herein are to be borne by the petitioner.
	AND ORDERED in Chambers at Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida, thisday of, 20
	Judge
Cc:	Petitioner: (name and address)

Cc: Petitioner: (name and address)
State Attorney's Office
Clerk of Courts
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING A CASE:

		CASE N	NO.:
		DIVISIO	DN
STATE	OF FLORIDA,		
	Plaintiff,		
vs.			
(Name)		
	Petitioner/Defendant		
		PETITION TO SEAL	
		FLITTION TO SLAL	
crimina records by the	The Petitioner, (Name) Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure al history record information in the s of the court concerning the petit Jacksonville Sheriff's Office for e)	e 3.692 and section 943.059, Flecustody of any criminal justice ioner's arrest on the day	orida Statutes, to seal all eagency and the official of,,
1.	On	, the petitioner, (Name)	а
(race/s	sex), whose o	date of birth is	, was arrested by the
	nville Sheriff's Office for (Charge)_		
2.	The petitioner has not been adju or alleged criminal activity.	dicated guilty of any of the cha	rges stemming from this arrest
3.	The petitioner has not been prevordinance violation.	iously adjudicated guilty of a cr	riminal offense or a comparable
4.	•	section 943.058, Florida Statue	ing under section 943.0585 or es, former section 893.14, Florida law, rule or authority.
col	HEREFORE, the petitioner moves to urt records regarding this arrest by the day of		

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

*I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the for Attorney's Office, Forth Judicial Circuit, in and for Duval C the Florida Department of Law Enforcement on this	County, Fl	orida, Jacksonvil	
		Signature	
		Print Name:	
		Address:	
		City/State:	
		Zip:	
		Telephone:	

Cc: Seal & Expunge Division
State Attorney's Office, 1st Floor
311 W. Monroe Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202

		CASE NO.:
		DIVISION:
STATE	OF FLORIDA,	
	Plaintiff,	
VS.		
(Name))	_
	Petitioner.	
	OF FLORIDA) TY OF DUVAL)	<u>AFFIDAVIT</u>
	by swear or affirm that:	, am the defendant/petitioner in the above-styled cause and I
1.	I fully understand the mean	ing of all of the terms of this affidavit.
2.	I have never been adjudicat	red guilty of a criminal offense or a comparable ordinance violation.
3.		, by the Jacksonville Sheriff's adjudicated guilty of the charges stemming from that arrest or the rounding my arrest.
4.	I am eligible for the relief request, to the best of my knowledge and belief, and do not have an other petition to expunge or seal pending before any court.	
5.	I have never secured a prior	record expunction or sealing under any law.
		Signature of Affiant
Sworn	to and subscribed before me	this,
NOTAR	RY PUBLIC	

Printed, typed or stamped Commissioned name of Notary Public

	IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AI DUVAL COUNTY, F CASE NO.: DIVISION	ND FOF Lorid <i>a</i>
STATE	E OF FLORIDA,	
vs.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
(Name	ne),	
	Petitioner	
	ORDER TO SEAL RECORDS PURSUANT TO SECTION 943.059 FLORIDA STATUTES AND FLORIDA RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURES 3.692	
	THIS CAUSE, having come to be heard before me this date upon petitioner's Petition to Serds concerning this arrest on (date), by the Jacksoff's Office, and the court being fully advised in the premises, the court hereby finds the follow	onville
1.	. The petitioner has never previously been adjudicated guilty of a criminal offense or a comparable ordinance violation.	
2.	. The petitioner was not adjudicated guilty of charges stemming from the arrest or crimina activity to which the petition pertains.	
3.	. The petitioner has not secured a prior records expunction or sealing.	
	ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the petition to seal records is hereby granted. All court re	cords
	pertaining to the above-styled case shall be sealed in accordance with the procedures set	forth
	in the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedures 3.692, and it is further	
	ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the clerk shall forward a certified copy of this order to the	State
	Attorney's Office and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, who will comply with the procedure	es set
	forth in section 943.059, Florida Statutes, and appropriate regulations of the Department	of Law
	Enforcement, and who will further forward a copy of this order to any agency that their re	cords
	reflect has received the instant criminal history record information; and it is further	
	ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office shall seal all information	
	concerning indicia of arrest or criminal history record information regarding this petitione	r in
	accordance with the procedures set forth in section 943.059, Florida Statutes and 3.692 F	RCP.
All cost	sts of certified copies involved herein are to be borne by the petitioner.	
DONE	E AND ORDERED in Chambers at Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida, thisday of , 20	

Judge

Cc: Petitioner: (name and address)
State Attorney's Office
Clerk of Courts
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office