

## What is the “Automatic Restriction of Access to Records System”?

This system limits access to your juvenile records after you turn 21 years old **ONLY** if you do not commit any criminal offenses after turning 17 years old. This is **NOT** the same thing as having your record sealed! Your record is still there, but it is only available to the police/prosecutor for investigating and prosecuting crimes. People will not be able to look at your record for employment or educational reasons. Under the Automatic Restriction of Access to Records System, you are allowed to say that you have never been arrested, prosecuted or adjudicated for a crime.

## How do a juvenile’s records become eligible for “Restricted Access”?

If, between the age of 17 and 21, you have not:

- Committed a felony;
- Committed a class A or B misdemeanor; or
- Received deferred adjudication for or been convicted in adult court of a Class A or B misdemeanor or a felony.

However, your record will be removed from restricted access if you commit a crime after turning 21.

## What should I do to make sure my records are placed on “Restricted Access?”

To be eligible for “Restricted Access” you must:

- Complete your period of probation or parole with no violations; and
- Commit no criminal offense after your 17<sup>th</sup> birthday

### REMEMBER:

**SEALING YOUR RECORD AND RESTRICTED ACCESS ARE NOT THE SAME THING. SEALING YOUR RECORD GIVES YOU GREATER PROTECTION THAN RESTRICTED ACCESS!**



## Center for Children, Law & Policy

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# Sealing Juvenile Records

Learn the how  
and why behind  
sealing juvenile  
records.

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## Do I have a juvenile record?

If, between the age of 10 and 17, you have been:

- Arrested;
- Taken into custody; or
- Charged with a criminal offense (Class A or B misdemeanor or any felony).

Also, you may have a juvenile record if you were charged with some Class C misdemeanor offenses and the justice or municipal court transferred your case to a juvenile court.



## Why should I seal my record?

A juvenile criminal record can:

- Make finding employment difficult.
- Can affect your chances of getting into college.
- Can interfere with applications for graduate schools, including business, medicine and law.
- Can interfere with your housing.
- Affect your financial aid status and whether financial aid will be granted to you.
- Affect your prospects of serving in the military.

**Does my record get sealed automatically?**

**NO!**

## What do I need to do to seal my record?

1. Keep your address and phone number up to date with the probation department.
2. Contact an attorney about sealing your record.
3. Provide all documentation about your case to your attorney.
4. Attend all necessary court hearings.
5. Follow-up with your attorney to make sure that the process has been completed.
6. Once your record has been sealed, when you file applications for employment, education, housing, financial aid, or entry to the military, you can respond that you have never been adjudicated or prosecuted for a crime.
7. Effective September 1, 2009, a juvenile participating in a drug court program is eligible to have his or her record immediately sealed.

