

Expungement for Low-Income Clients: What Service Providers Need to Know



Presented by:

The Rural Reentry Project
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.

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Agenda

- Introduction to CRLA and the Rural Reentry Project
- What post-conviction options are available?
- Why do clients need post-conviction relief?
- How do you refer clients?
- Summary


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Meet our team




Joseph Doherty
Managing Attorney



Alex Tron
Staff Attorney



Marin Stuve
Administrative Legal Secretary



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Introduction

According to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, **one third of Americans** today have criminal records and face over **44,000 legal sanctions** which are collectively referred to as collateral consequences.

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How can CRLA help?

CRLA's Rural Reentry Project can help remove those restrictions with full service representation, at no cost to clients.

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What reentry services are available?

Expungement

- The court sets aside the conviction, and enters a dismissal into the public record
- Client can legally say they have not been convicted of a crime for the expunged case
- Employers may not ask a current employee or job applicant to disclose information about a past conviction that has been expunged
- Individuals can answer "No" if asked if asked if they have been convicted

Record Sealing

- Seals public records of cases that did not result in conviction
- Removes file completely from public record, unlike expungement

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What reentry services are available? (cont.)

Felony Reduction

- A prior felony conviction is reduced to a misdemeanor through a petition and court hearing
- CRLA attorneys will seek expungement of the conviction at the same hearing

Early Termination of Probation

- Terminating probation early can make a client eligible for post-conviction relief
- CRLA attorneys will seek expungement of the conviction at the same hearing

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How can an expungement help?

Housing

- Reduces discrimination from private landlords (especially arrest record sealing)

Employment

- Expunged records cannot be used to deny a job offer or promotion
- An individual will not be denied a professional license based on a conviction that has been expunged

Self-Respect

- Expunging a record can help an individual move on with their life
- Having a "clean slate" can increase positive outlook and civic engagement

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Summary

Stability creates a safer community, and expungements assist individuals to gain stability. You can save your clients thousands of dollars.

If someone you're assisting has a criminal record, refer them to CRLA's Rural Reentry Project and we can assess their eligibility for post-conviction relief.

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Refer clients to:

CRLA's Rural Reentry Project

805-902-CRLA

reentry@crla.org

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