
CLEAN SLATE

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE LAW

Act 56 of 2018

The Clean Slate Law, formally Act 56 of 2018, does two main things: (1) expands the list of individuals who can petition the Court for an Order of Limited Access; and, (2) provides for the automatic issuance of Orders of Limited Access. This means if a case meets the criteria, only certain parties will be able to see a person's criminal history – and the sealing of the case will be done automatically by the Courts.

Who Does This Apply To?

Generally, any person convicted of a misdemeanor who has (1) been free from any other felony or misdemeanor conviction for 10 years, and (2) paid all the financial obligations related to that conviction, will be eligible for an Order of Limited Access under the law. This includes misdemeanors of the first and second degree.

How It Works

Beginning in June 2019, the Courts will run a query each month to identify cases with offenses that are eligible for automatic limited access. All eligible offenses are then transmitted to the PA State Police for review, before being sent to the appropriate Court of Common Pleas. Once ordered, any offense included in this automated process will not be accessible to the public.

The Impact

According to a recent study, only 6.5% of people eligible for record clearing filed petitions. Automated sealing addresses this and helps people access employment, housing, and education. Clean Slate will allow hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians to move past their old, minor criminal cases.

For more information about PA's Clean Slate Law, visit mycleanslatepa.com.