

JUVENILE RECORD SEALING

Why seal your juvenile record?

Every young person leaving a JR institution should take the opportunity to seal their juvenile record as soon as they are eligible. A record can present many challenges. It can make it harder to get a job, to get into school, or to get a loan. A young person looking to start fresh can seal their juvenile record or apply for a Certificate of Restoration of Opportunity (CROP). **If your case was in juvenile court, then sealing your juvenile record will be more beneficial than applying for a CROP.**

	Juvenile Record Sealing	CROP
What remains public?	Juvenile record sealing removes <u>all</u> criminal history from public view.	A CROP creates a new record of offenses that <u>cannot</u> be sealed.
What will it cost?	There is no filing fee for record sealing.	A CROP can be costly because it may require hiring an attorney and paying a court filing fee
What offenses are eligible?	Juvenile record sealing will seal the record of <u>all</u> offenses.	A CROP is <u>not</u> available for those with class A offenses or to registered sex offenders.

What's the difference between Juvenile Record Sealing and a CROP

Will it improve your access to?

	Juvenile Record Sealing	CROP
Education	Yes	No
Employment	Yes	<u>Some</u> professional licenses
Military	Yes	No
Public Benefits	Yes	No
Credit Report	Yes	No
Housing	Yes	No

These are general differences between record sealing and a CROP. We suggest that you consult an attorney about your specific case or refer to the following websites for more information:

1. <https://teamchild.org/record-sealing/>

2. <http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org/issues/criminal/juvenile-offenders?channel=going-to-court>

Are you eligible to seal your record?

Question 1

Were you sentenced in juvenile court?



Question 2

Has it been at least 2 years since you were last released from confinement for:

- ✓ a juvenile misdemeanor?
- ✓ class C felony?
- ✓ class B felony?
- ✓ completed diversion?
- ✓ a deferred disposition?

OR

Has it been at least 5 years since you were released from confinement for a class A felony?



Question 3

Have you remained arrest-free since your last conviction?



Question 4

Have you paid all of your restitution?

Question 5

If applicable, have you removed any registration requirements for sex or kidnapping offenses?



If you answer YES to all of these questions, you may be eligible to seal your record.

How do you seal your record?

1. Call TeamChild directly to see if someone can help you seal your record.

2. Follow the instructions found at the Washington LawHelp website:

<http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org/issues/criminal/juvenile-offenders?channel=going-to-court>