

## ***EXPUNGEMENT – WHAT IS IT?***

***By: Tom Wallin***

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An expungement is also called a sealing of a criminal record and is a short, legal process that can clear someone's criminal past from an individual's record. The process starts when an action is filed with the court where the conviction took place and a formal request is made of the court to dismiss, or set aside, the criminal conviction. An expungement process applies to *most* misdemeanor and minor felony convictions. Serious felonies require alternative ways to set aside the conviction aside.

**NOTE: NOT ALL CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS CAN BE EXPUNGED!**

### ***WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF AN EXPUNGEMENT?***

An expungement is used to clear criminal charges from adult and juvenile records that could have a negative effect on your chances of education or employment.

### ***HOW LONG DOES THE EXPUNGEMENT PROCESS TAKE?***

Expungements for the majority of misdemeanors will take anywhere from 2 to 6 weeks from the date the application is filed with the Court. This estimated time of 2 to 6 weeks does not include any research time necessary to research court records for additional information needed to file the application. The more information you supply, the faster the application can be filed.

*FELONY EXPUNGEMENTS AND FELONY REDUCTIONS TO MISDEMEANORS* generally take 4 to 6 weeks from the date the application is filed. Those felonies that cannot be expunged can sometimes be reduced to a misdemeanor and will take the same time. Again, this time does not include any time necessary to research records.

*SEALING JUVENILE RECORDS* , depending upon information received and the location of the court, the estimated time to seal a juvenile record is 2 to 6 weeks, from the filing of the application.

### ***HOW MUCH WILL AN EXPUNGEMENT COST?***

**Misdemeanors** \$895.00 each (costs/fees included)\*\*

**Felonies** \$1875.00 each (costs/fees included)\*\*

**Reduce Felony to Misdemeanor** \$850.00 each(costs/fees included)\*\*

**Research Case History** \$275.00 per case search, \$75.00 per hour to obtain additional documents reflecting conviction or arrests.

**Additional Legal Services Fee** --- will be quoted on a case by case basis.

\*\*Does not include case history search.

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The Law Offices of Thomas Wallin can defend you in your **Driving Under the Influence (DUI) case in Southern California**. As an experienced, aggressive DUI trial lawyer, Mr. Wallin handles DUI cases in Riverside, San Bernardino, Los Angeles and Orange County. As a DUI criminal defense attorney, Mr. Wallin will represent you at both the **DUI criminal proceeding** as well as the **DUI DMV hearing**. In most cases, your DUI lawyer **can appear on your behalf in court**, saving you time and embarrassment. As a former **Riverside County Public Defender** attorney, Mr. Wallin is familiar with the DUI courts in **Riverside, San Bernardino, Los Angeles and Orange County**. Mr. Wallin is also an active member of the **National College for DUI Defense** and **National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers**.