



July 6, 2020

**Contact: Kimberlee Leach
Director of Communications
Dallas County District Attorney's Office
214-653-3756 (Office)
Kimberlee.leach@DallasCounty.org**

For Immediate Release: Dallas County's 4th Annual AND 1st Virtual Expunction Expo

(Dallas, Texas)— The Dallas County Criminal District Attorney's Office and the Dallas County District Clerk's Office, in partnership with the Dallas County Public Defender's Office, among other community partners, are hosting the 4th Annual Dallas County Expunction Expo AND 1st Virtual Expunction Expo due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. As national unemployment rates have risen to their highest levels since the Great Depression, leaders of Dallas County's criminal justice community realize how important hosting such a life-changing event is, especially in these unprecedented times.

The Virtual Expunction Expo aims to help people who, by law, are eligible to have their criminal records erased. "The Expo has continued to grow each year and that means we have been able to help more people get a fresh start and become contributing members of society again," says Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot. "Many people may not be able to obtain gainful employment, attend college or serve in the military because of something on their record that can be eliminated. This is an opportunity for them to change their lives for the better," Creuzot added.

Last year, twelve-hundred-eighty-one (1281) people—over 500 more than the previous year--participated in the pre-screening process for the Expo. Nearly half met the requirements and were invited to attend the Expo's Pre-Qualification Clinic. During the Virtual Pre-Qualification Clinic, criminal defense and private attorneys volunteer their time to meet with individuals to help determine if they, in fact, have an offense eligible for expunction, if so, that attorney assists the individual with the preparation and filing the necessary legal documents. This year, attorneys will meet with individuals via videoconference or telephone.

The volunteer attorneys, who are vital to the success of the Expo, including attorneys from the Public Defender's Office, Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, the Dallas Bar Association, the J.L. Turner Legal Society, the Christian Legal Society, and Mosaic Legal Family services, to name a few, as well as students from the University of North Texas (UNT) Dallas College of Law and the Southern Methodist University (SMU) Dedman School of Law. Dallas County District Judges and the Dallas City Attorney's Office/City of Dallas Community Courts are also vital partners in this endeavor. This year, attorneys from national law firms, including Jones Day and Perkins Coie, as well as counsel from American Airlines and Toyota have expressed interest in helping citizens of Dallas County during the

Expo. Additionally, the City of Dallas will be assisting to help increase outreach to underserved communities.

Since its inception in 2017, this event has helped clear over **700** criminal records.

Per Texas statute, individuals who have offenses on their criminal record **MAY** qualify for an expunction if any of the following apply:

- They were arrested but a charge was **never filed** with the DAs Office or was **no billed** by the grand jury;
- They have a criminal charge that was **dismissed without any type of community supervision or probation prior to dismissal**, except for Class C offenses; They were **acquitted/found Not Guilty** on their charge by a judge, jury, or appellate court, or;
- They were convicted of a crime but later **pardoned** by the Governor of Texas or the President of the United States.

*An individual is **not** eligible for an expunction if:*

- THEIR CASE IS STILL PENDING;
- THEY WERE CONVICTED, EVEN IF THEY JUST PAID A FINE; OR
- THEY WERE PLACED ON PROBATION, COMMUNITY SUPERVISION, OR DEFERRED ADJUDICATION, EVEN IF THEIR CASE WAS LATER DISMISSED.

How to Participate in the Virtual Expunction Expo:

- Anyone who believes they are eligible for an expunction can go to www.dallascounty.org/expunction between **July 6 and July 27, 2020** to complete a **Participant Information Form** online. Individuals who do not have Internet access can call 214-653-2905 for assistance filling out the forms over the phone.
- Individuals who **MAY** have an offense eligible for expunction will be notified by September 4th and be invited to attend the Virtual Pre-Qualification Clinic on **Friday and Saturday, September 11-12, 2020**.
- Those granted expunctions will be celebrated at a **Virtual Graduation ceremony on Saturday, December 5, 2020**.
- Only Dallas County offenses will be considered.

For additional information, individuals may call (214) 653-2905.

****Please help the Dallas County District Attorney's Office spread the word about the Expunction Expo by sharing this information with your viewers, listeners, and readers as well as on your websites and social media channels.**