



July 5, 2022

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For Immediate Release: The Dallas County District Attorney and District Clerk announce the 6th annual 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 6th Annual Dallas County Expunction Expo.

As the nation grapples with a high cost of living and continues to recover from challenges brought on by the Covid-19 Pandemic, leaders of Dallas County's criminal justice community realize how important hosting such a life-changing event is.

"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.

In 2021, the Expunction Expo received the most applications ever in one week, totaling more than 1,300. Nearly half of all of those applying met the requirements and were invited to participate in last year's Expo. After the applicants are pre-qualified, criminal defense and private attorneys volunteer their time to meet with them to help determine if they, in fact, have an offense eligible for expunction. If so, that attorney assists the individual with preparation and filing the necessary legal documents.

Once again, this year, attorneys will meet with individuals via videoconference, telephone, or in person. The volunteer attorneys, who are vital to the success of the Expo, include attorneys from the Public Defender's Office, Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, and the Dallas Volunteer Attorneys Program, 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 and local law firms, including Winston Strawn, Jones Day, Perkins Coie, Locke Lord, and Holland & Knight, 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 **1,700** criminal records.

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

- You were arrested but a charge was never filed, was no-billed by the grand jury, or was rejected by the District Attorney's Office;
- Your Felony, Class A Misdemeanor, or Class B Misdemeanor charge was dismissed without any type of community supervision or probation prior to the dismissal;
- Your Class C misdemeanor was dismissed, or you successfully completed Class C deferred adjudication;
- You were acquitted (found "not guilty") of your charge by a judge, jury, or appellate court;
- You were convicted of a crime but later pardoned by the Texas Governor or the United States President; or
- You were convicted before 09/01/2021 for Unlawfully Carrying a Weapon under Section 46.02(a) of the Penal Code.

A case is **not eligible** for an expunction, if:

- It is STILL PENDING;
- You were CONVICTED in the case, even if you only paid a fine;
- You received PROBATION, COMMUNITY SUPERVISION, or DEFERRED ADJUDICATION for a Felony, Class A Misdemeanor, or Class B Misdemeanor you want expunged, even if your case was later dismissed; or
- The case you want expunged is a FELONY, and you were arrested for another offense at the same time that resulted in a conviction, probation, community supervision, or deferred adjudication.

How do I participate in the Expunction Expo?

You may fill out a Participant Information Form online between July 5 and July 11 via a link on the Dallas County District Clerk's website, at www.dallascounty.org/expunction. Participants will be notified by phone and email no later than September 12, 2022, if they qualify to participate in this year's Expunction Expo. Then, a volunteer attorney will be assigned to you and contact you directly for an appointment between approximately September 19 and October 4, 2022.

Information may also be obtained by calling 214-653-2905.

Those granted expunctions will be celebrated at a graduation ceremony on Saturday, January 21, 2023. Only Dallas County offenses will be considered.

For additional information, individuals may call (214) 653-2905 or visit www.dallascounty.org/expunction.

Expo 2022 Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

Question: How do I apply for the Expunction Expo?

Answer: Go to the Dallas County Expunction Expo webpage at:
www.dallascounty.org/expunction

Click on the link to fill out a Participant Information Form and enter your personal/identifying information and offense information for any offense you would like to have reviewed for an expunction. You may sign up using this form between July 5 and July 11, 2022.

Question: Do I fill out one Participant Information Form for each of my cases/offenses?

Answer: No, only fill out one Participant Information Form, unless you are submitting more than five cases for consideration. Each Participant Information Form allows you to list five cases. If you have more than five cases, complete a second Participant Information Form, but do not repeat cases you listed on your first form.

Question: Can I ask to have more than one case expunged?

Answer: Yes, if the cases qualify for an expunction under the law, there is no limit to the number you can have expunged. The Participant Information Form allows you to list up to five offenses. If you have more than five offenses, complete an additional Participant Information Form, but do not repeat any offenses you listed on your first form.

Question: Where can I find the information about my case to put on the Participant Information Form?

Answer: Locate your Dallas County case information by going to the following webpage:
<https://www.dallascounty.org/criminalBackgroundSearch/captcha>

Question: What if I don't have all of my case/offense information?

Answer: If you cannot locate your case information on the Dallas County web link listed above, include as much information as possible on the Participant Information Form. (The link does not include cases where a person was arrested but the police agency did not file the case with the District Attorney's office, or cases where a person was arrested and the District Attorney rejected the case.) But remember, only Dallas County offenses are eligible.

Question: Should I include my maiden name on the Participant Information Form?

Answer: Yes, please include your maiden name on the Participant Information Form.

Question: How much does the Expo cost?

Answer: If you qualify to participate, there is no cost for an attorney to represent you. A volunteer attorney will be assigned to you. There is a \$350 filing fee to file an expunction case. Participants may qualify for a waiver of this fee based on income. Your attorney will assist you in filing for the waiver, if appropriate.

Question: What if I do not have access to a computer and want to apply to the Expunction Expo?

Answer: Dallas County and its partners have several resources available to you. You may use a computer to complete a Participant Information Form between July 5-8 and July 11, 2022, at the following locations:

(1) The City of Dallas Community Court Locations (see locations, dates, and times below)

West Dallas Community Court

2828 Fish Trap Rd.

Dallas, TX 75212

214-670-9745

Tuesday, July 5, 9:00 am to 11:45 am, or 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

South Dallas Community Court

2922 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. , Building A
Dallas, TX 75215
214-670-7129

Wednesday, July 6, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, or 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Thursday, July 7, 9:00 am to 11:45 am, or 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

South Oak Cliff Community Court

2111 South Corinth Street Road
Dallas, TX 75203
214-671-0777

Monday, July 11, 9:00 am to 11:45 am, or 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Northeast Community Court

6742 Greenville Avenue
Dallas, TX 75231
214-671-1961

Monday, July 11, 9:00 am to 11:45 am, or 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

(2) Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative – T.O.R.I.

1810 High Hill Blvd.
Dallas, Texas 75203

July 5-8 and July 11, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (Monday through Friday only)

(3) Unlocking Doors

12225 Greenville Ave., Suite 850
Dallas, Texas 75243

July 5-8 and July 11, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (Monday through Friday only)
(214) 296-9258

If you have no access to a computer, no transportation, and you would like assistance registering for the Expunction Expo by phone, please call 214-941-1325, Extension 103 (T.O.R.I.) between 10:00 am and 5:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday only) or 214-875-4999 (Dallas DA's Office) between 9 am and 4:00 pm (Monday through Friday only). You must call July 5-8 or July 11. Before calling, please gather your identifying information (date of birth, social security number, address, etc.) and case information (date of arrest, date of offense, name of offense charged with, case number, etc.) and be ready to provide this information by phone.

Question: What happens after I complete the Participant Information Form?

Answer: Your case(s) will undergo a preliminary review to determine if you are eligible to participate in the Dallas County 2022 Expo. You will be notified during the week of September 12, 2022 if you will be assigned a volunteer attorney who will process any eligible cases. Eligibility to participate DOES NOT guarantee you will receive an expunction. After a volunteer attorney meets with you, reviews your cases, and confirms your eligibility, the attorney will file a petition on your behalf. This does not mean your expunction will automatically be granted. The Dallas County Respondents will conduct a full review of your case(s) and determine if they agree with or oppose your expunction. This review is based on the Texas expunction law. If the Dallas County Respondents agree, the Judge will sign your expunction order.

Question: How will I find out if I have been invited to participate in the Expo?

Answer: Participants will be notified by phone and email during the week of September 12, 2022 if they qualify to participate in this year's Expunction Expo. Then, a volunteer attorney will be assigned to you and contact you directly for an appointment between approximately September 19 and October 4, 2022. If you qualify, please answer any unknown phone calls during this time period and check your junk or spam folder of your email.

Question: If I completed a Participant Information Form but have not heard whether I am accepted to participate in the Expo by September 16, 2022, what do I do?

Answer: If you have not heard by September 16, 2022 whether you have been accepted into the Expo, please email DC-EXPO@dallascounty.org and ask about the status of your application. Provide your name and date of birth. Please do not email before September 16, 2022—we will not have an answer for you yet.

Question: If I am invited to participate in the Expo, does that guarantee I will get an expunction?

Answer: No, filling out the Participant Information Form is the first step of the expunction process. There are many more steps to be taken to determine if your case is eligible for an expunction. See the question and answer above regarding what happens after you complete the Participant Information Form.

Question: I successfully completed probation or deferred adjudication, and the case was dismissed. Can I get an expunction?

Answer:

- Yes, ONLY IF you successfully completed deferred adjudication for a Class C Misdemeanor (a ticket).
- No, if you received probation or deferred adjudication for a Felony, Class A Misdemeanor, or Class B Misdemeanor.
- BUT, IF you successfully completed deferred adjudication for a Felony, Class A misdemeanor, or Class B misdemeanor, that case MAY qualify for a non-disclosure. A non-disclosure is a different legal proceeding than an expunction. Non-disclosures are not part of the Expo. You may want to consult with an attorney after the Expo about a non-disclosure for a Felony, Class A misdemeanor, or Class B misdemeanor for which you successfully completed deferred adjudication.

Question: What types of cases may be eligible for an expunction?

Answer: Per Texas statute, individuals who have offenses on their criminal record may qualify for an expunction in the following circumstances:

- You were arrested but a charge was never filed, was no billed by the grand jury, or was rejected by the District Attorney's Office;
- Your Felony, Class A Misdemeanor, or Class B Misdemeanor charge was dismissed without any type of community supervision or probation prior to the dismissal;
- Your Class C misdemeanor was dismissed or you successfully completed Class C deferred adjudication;
- You were acquitted (found "not guilty") of your charge by a judge, jury, or appellate court;
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Question: What types of cases are not eligible for an expunction?

Answer: Your case IS NOT ELIGIBLE for an expunction if:

- It is STILL PENDING;
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- The case you want expunged is a FELONY, and you were arrested for another offense at the same time that resulted in a conviction, probation, community supervision, or deferred adjudication.

Question: If I qualify for the Expo, meet with an attorney, and the Judge signs my expunction order, when will my case be expunged?

Answer: The expunction orders will be signed at the graduation ceremony on January 21, 2023. Respondents will begin expunging records 30 to 45 days after January 21. It is difficult to predict how long this process will take for every Respondent, however.