

# FAQs

# CONTACT INFO

For Maine's Courts

[www.courts.maine.gov](http://www.courts.maine.gov)

**AUGUSTA** • 213-2800 • 1 Court Street, Suite 101

**BANGOR** • 561-2300 • 78 Exchange Street

**BELFAST** • 338-3107 • 103 Church Street

**BIDDEFORD** • 283-1147 • 25 Adams Street

**BRIDGTON** • 647-3535 • 3 Chase Street, Suite 2

**CALAIS** • 454-2055 • 382 South Street, Suite B

**CARIBOU** • 493-3144 • 144 Sweden Street, Suite 104

**DOVER-FOXCROFT** • 564-2240 • 159 E Main Street, Suite 21

**ELLSWORTH** • 667-7141 • 50 State Street, Suite 2

**FARMINGTON** • 778-2119 • 129 Main Street, Suite 1

**FORT KENT** • 834-5003 • 139 Market Street, Suite 101

**HOULTON** • 532-2147 • 26 Court Street, Suite 201

**LEWISTON** • 795-4800 • 71 Lisbon Street

**LINCOLN** • 794-8512 • 52 Main Street

**MACHIAS** • 255-3044 • 85 Court Street

**MADAWASKA** • 728-4700 • 645 Main Street

**MILLINOCKET** • 723-4786 • 207 Penobscot Avenue

**NEWPORT** • 368-5778 • 12 Water Street

**PORTLAND** • 822-4200 • 205 Newbury Street

**PRESQUE ISLE** • 764-2055 • 27 Riverside Drive

**ROCKLAND** • 596-2240 • 62 Union Street

**RUMFORD** • 364-7171 • 145 Congress Street

**SKOWHEGAN** • 474-9518 • 47 Court Street

**SOUTH PARIS** • 743-8942 • 26 Western Avenue

**SPRINGVALE** • 459-1400 • 447 Main Street

**WATERVILLE** • 873-2103 • 18 Colby Street

**WEST BATH** • 442-0200 • 101 New Meadows Road

**WISCASSET** • 882-6363 • 32 High Street

**YORK** • 363-1230 • 11 Chases Pond Road

What does it mean to have a

# JUVENILE RECORD IN MAINE?

## Know the Facts

### Juvenile Justice Clinic

*Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic  
University of Maine School of Law*

The Juvenile Justice Clinic at the University of Maine School of Law (JJC) was established in 2006 to provide law students the opportunity to address the needs of troubled children in a number of diverse settings. Student attorneys represent juveniles in delinquency proceedings and in post-disposition matters. The JJC also helps youth and adults who are seeking to seal their juvenile records by providing information and, for eligible clients, direct representation.

207-780-4370 (Greater Portland area)

877-780-2522 (Toll free, outside the Greater Portland area)

[www.mainerlaw.maine.edu/public-service/clac](http://www.mainerlaw.maine.edu/public-service/clac)

## I saw my juvenile record, I don't think it is right. Who should I contact?

If something in your juvenile record is wrong, you can contact the juvenile court in which your case took place and/or contact the State Bureau of Identification to correct the mistake. See the back page for information about how to contact district courts and the State Bureau of Identification.

## Can my juvenile record prevent me from owning or buying a gun?

If you have admitted to, or a judge found that you committed a **Class A, Class B, or Class C\*** juvenile crime, it is likely that you cannot legally possess, own, or have under your control any firearms in Maine for a period of time, or possibly for life.

Maine state laws on possession of firearms are very complex. If gun ownership is important to you, you should speak to an attorney about whether your juvenile record prohibits you from legally possessing a firearm in Maine.

## Do I have to register as a sex offender if I was adjudicated of a sex crime in juvenile court?

Maine does not require juveniles adjudicated of sex crimes to register as sex offenders on Maine's Sex Offender Registry. However, the sex offender registry requirement is different from state to state. If you are planning to travel or move out of Maine, you should contact an attorney in the state you are going to and make certain you understand the law in that state.

Questions? Be in touch...

JUVENILE JUSTICE CLINIC AT THE CUMBERLAND LEGAL AID CLINIC

207-780-4370 (Greater Portland area) • 877-780-2522 (Toll free, outside the Greater Portland area)

**MAINE**  
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SCHOOL OF LAW  
**LAW**

Maine Center for  
Juvenile Policy and Law

# WE ARE HERE TO HELP

## ? Do I have a juvenile record?

If you appeared in the juvenile court and either admitted to OR a judge found that you committed murder and/or a **Class A, Class B, Class C, or more than one Class D crime\*** (arising from two or more cases) you have a juvenile record that can be seen by the general public.

If you appeared in the juvenile court and admitted to OR a judge found you committed a Class E or only one Class D crime (and you have no prior adjudications for Class A, Class B, Class C, or Class D offenses), your juvenile record is kept confidential from the public. There might be times when you are asked to share information about your confidential juvenile record, but you should talk with a lawyer before doing so.

If you met with a Juvenile Community Corrections Officer (JCCO) and your case did not go to the juvenile court, you do not have a juvenile court record that is available to the public.

Certain types of charges, even though they occurred before you turned 18, will be public because they are not juvenile crimes. Many driving and hunting crimes, such as operating a motor vehicle without a license or fishing without a license are **not** considered juvenile crimes and are handled in the adult criminal court. Most civil violations by a minor are **not** juvenile crimes. Any case that was handled in the adult criminal court is open to the public and **will** appear on a background check.

### \*How do I know if I was adjudicated of a Class A, B, C, D or E juvenile crime?

Here are some examples of frequently committed juvenile offenses, and their classification:

**A:** Arson; Gross Sexual Assault; Manslaughter

**B:** Burglary to a home; Theft of a firearm; Aggravated Assault; Unlawful Sexual Contact

**C:** Burglary of a business/other structure; Aggravated criminal mischief (more than \$2,000 damage)

**D:** Assault; Criminal Mischief (vandalism); Criminal Trespass at a home; Criminal Threatening or Terrorizing

**E:** Theft (shoplifting or stealing something worth less than \$500; Criminal Trespass (not a home)

Juvenile crimes that are **civil violations** if committed by an adult include:

- Possession of liquor, marijuana or drug paraphernalia (not public)
- Illegal transportation of liquor by a minor (public, driving record)
- Transportation of illegal drugs by a minor (public, driving record)

## ? When do I have to tell others about my juvenile record?

Applications ask about records in different ways. The language used in the application determines what you are required, by law, to disclose.

Maine law says that an **adjudication** for having committed a juvenile crime is not a **conviction**.

If an application (for housing, employment, college, the military, etc.) asks if you have been **convicted** of a crime, misdemeanor or a felony, you do not have to include information about what happened with any case you had in the juvenile court.

If an application asks if you have been **adjudicated** of a crime or an offense or asks about **juvenile crimes or offenses**, you have an obligation to provide information about your juvenile court record, unless your record has been sealed by a judge. This is true no matter what type of juvenile crime is on your record.

Background searches may show that you had contact with law enforcement as a juvenile. The person checking your history may not understand that you were a juvenile at the time. You may be asked to explain what happened even if your juvenile record is not open to the public.

## ? How do I find more information about my juvenile record?

• Contact the attorney who represented you in juvenile court.

• Contact the juvenile clerk in the court where your juvenile case took place.

• Pay \$21 (\$31 for non-Maine InforME subscribers) to access your record through Maine's State Bureau of Identification at <https://www5.informe.org/online/pcr/>.

## ? Can I get rid of my juvenile record?

• If you meet certain requirements, you can ask a judge in the juvenile court that handled your case to **seal** your juvenile court record.

• A judge can seal your juvenile court record only if:

1. Three years have passed since you completed your juvenile court obligations. For example, at least 3 years have passed since you have been off juvenile probation or completed your commitment to Long Creek and aftercare;
2. You have not been adjudicated of another juvenile offense or convicted of a crime since the juvenile court entered a disposition (sentence) on your case; and
3. You have no juvenile or criminal cases pending (open) in any court.

• If the judge orders your juvenile record sealed, it means your juvenile record is kept private from everyone but you, the courts, District Attorneys, and law enforcement agencies.

• If a judge seals your juvenile court record, you may respond to most questions about your juvenile cases as if they never happened.

If you do not know how to respond to a question about your juvenile record, or if you have questions about how to seal your record contact your attorney or call the **Juvenile Justice Clinic at 207-780-4370**