

FAQs

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

MAYBE. 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 in Maine if I was adjudicated of a sex crime in juvenile court?

NO. 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 that state to make sure you understand the law in that state.

? I saw my juvenile record and 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 Maine State Bureau of Identification (207-624-7240) to learn how to correct the mistake. See the back page for Maine court contact information.

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

Contact the attorney who represented you in juvenile court or 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 the Maine State Bureau of Identification at <https://apps1.web.maine.gov/online/pcr>.

MAINE COURTS

AUGUSTA · 207-213-2800 · 1 Court Street, Suite 101
BANGOR · 207-561-2300 · 78 Exchange Street
BELFAST · 207-338-3107 · 103 Church Street
BIDDEFORD · 207-283-1147 · 25 Adams Street
BRIDGTON · 207-647-3535 · 3 Chase Street, Suite 2
CALAIS · 207-454-2055 · 382 South Street, Suite B
CARIBOU · 207-493-3144 · 144 Sweden Street, Suite 104
DOVER-FOXCROFT · 207-564-2240 · 159 E Main Street, Suite 21
ELLSWORTH · 207-667-7141 · 50 State Street, Suite 2
FARMINGTON · 207-778-2119 · 129 Main Street, Suite 1
FORT KENT · 207-834-5003 · 139 Market Street, Suite 101
HOULTON · 207-532-2147 · 26 Court Street, Suite 201
LEWISTON · 207-795-4800 · 71 Lisbon Street
LINCOLN · 207-794-8512 · 52 Main Street
MACHIAS · 207-255-3044 · 85 Court Street
MADAWASKA · 207-728-4700 · 645 Main Street
MILLINOCKET · 207-723-4786 · 207 Penobscot Avenue
NEWPORT · 207-368-5778 · 12 Water Street
PORTLAND · 207-822-4200 · 205 Newbury Street
PRESQUE ISLE · 207-764-2055 · 27 Riverside Drive
ROCKLAND · 207-596-2240 · 62 Union Street
RUMFORD · 207-364-7171 · 145 Congress Street
SKOWHEGAN · 207-474-9518 · 47 Court Street
SOUTH PARIS · 207-743-8942 · 26 Western Avenue
SPRINGVALE · 207-459-1400 · 447 Main Street
WATERVILLE · 207-873-2103 · 18 Colby Street
WEST BATH · 207-442-0200 · 101 New Meadows Road
WISCASSET · 207-882-6363 · 32 High Street
YORK · 207-363-1230 · 11 Chases Pond Road

www.courts.maine.gov

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 children and youth 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.mainelaw.maine.edu/public-service/clac/

MAINE
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SCHOOL OF LAW
LAW

Maine Center for
Juvenile Policy and Law

We are here to help.

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 juvenile record, contact your attorney or call the Juvenile Justice Clinic at 207-780-4370.

? Do I have a juvenile record?

If you appeared in juvenile court and either admitted to OR a judge found that you committed **murder and/or a Class A, Class B, Class C, juvenile crime*** you have a public juvenile record.

If you appeared in juvenile court and either admitted to OR a judge found that you committed **only a Class E and/or a Class D crime**, your juvenile record is not visible to the public. If you are asked to share information about your confidential juvenile record, talk with a lawyer first.

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

Charges that will be public because they are not juvenile crimes include most civil violations by a minor and many driving and hunting crimes, such as operating a motor vehicle without a license or fishing without a license that are handled in adult criminal court.

If the disposition of your juvenile case occurred before January 2022, different rules may apply. Please contact the Juvenile Justice Clinic for additional information and assistance.

? 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.**

- This means that 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 any case you had in 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. 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.

? What can I do about my juvenile record?

If you were adjudicated of a **Class D or Class E juvenile crime or a juvenile crime that would be considered a civil offense if committed by an adult,**** and you have **completed your juvenile court obligation**, an order sealing your juvenile case record will be issued within 5 business days once the following has occurred:

1. Proof of completion has been provided by the Department of Corrections to the Court if your disposition (sentence) involved commitment to a DOC juvenile correctional facility;
2. Proof of completion has been provided by the office of the prosecuting attorney to the Court if your disposition (sentence) included restitution, community service or a restorative justice program and the court ordered the proof of completion of the obligation be provided to the office of the prosecuting attorney; or
3. Proof of completion has been provided by you or your attorney to the court that handled your juvenile case.

If you were adjudicated of **murder or a Class A, B or C crime or operating under the influence**, you can **petition the juvenile court** that handled your case **to seal your juvenile record** if you meet certain conditions:

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 pending (open) juvenile or criminal cases** in any court.

If the judge orders your juvenile record sealed or it is automatically sealed, your juvenile record is not public and you may respond to most questions about your juvenile case as if it never happened without being sanctioned. Only you, the courts, District Attorneys, and law enforcement agencies will have access to your sealed record.

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 **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)