



Sharen Wilson Criminal District Attorney



For Immediate Release

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Need to get your criminal record erased? Check out this event

(Fort Worth, TX) – It's time for some spring cleaning. Of criminal records, that is.

The L. Clifford Davis Legal Association and the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office are working together again to hold a free virtual event: the 5th Annual Expunction and Nondisclosure Clinic. Expunction is a legal process where eligible arrests or charges are removed from criminal records.

"It is important to give people – especially those who had their charges dropped or completed a diversion program – a second chance," said Sharen Wilson, Tarrant County's Criminal District Attorney. "Having a criminal record can prevent someone from getting a job or a place to live.

"Erasing that criminal record gives people a fresh start and helps them, once again, to positively contribute to society."

To participate, online applications must be submitted by April 5, 2021.

Applicants must submit an intake questionnaire and financial statement at www.lcdla-bar.com. Only Tarrant County cases can be considered.

Volunteer attorneys will contact applicants between April 3 and May 7 to complete the petition for expunction or nondisclosure.

Court costs may be waived for some applicants under financial guidelines. Applicants who do not meet the financial criteria must pay the court costs of approximately \$450 in cash, cashier's check or money order before the petition is filed.

A person may qualify for expunction if: a charge was dismissed, not filed or no billed by a Grand Jury; he or she was acquitted of the charge or pardoned; or he or she completed a diversion program, such as the Deferred Prosecution Program or Deferred Prosecution Initiative in Tarrant County.

A person may qualify for a non disclosure, which is when an arrest record is sealed, if the case was a Class A or B misdemeanor or a non-exempt felony and he or she successfully completed a deferred adjudication probation on the case.

The L. Clifford Davis Legal Association and the Tarrant County CDA's Office hosted their first expunction clinic in 2016. Since then, more than 5,300 expunctions and more than 600 non-disclosures have been issued.

The clinic is "important because many individuals in our community continue to feel the negative consequences of an arrest or a criminal charge long after they've paid their debt to society," said MarQuetta Clayton, president-elect of the L. Clifford Davis Legal Association and Expunction Clinic Chair. "An individual's criminal history can affect their employment, housing, licensing, and many other opportunities that would otherwise be available.

"We gather volunteer attorneys to file the petitions, and if eligible, individuals may have their filing fee waived. The clinic provides a way for those who cannot afford to file an Expunction or Non Disclosure an opportunity to clean up their criminal record at little to no cost."

