



Texas Center for Justice & Equity

SOLUTIONS FOR SAFE, HEALTHY,
JUST COMMUNITIES

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**Contact: Madison Kaigh, mkaigh@TexasCJE.org
Maggie Luna, mluna@TexasCJE.org**

Abilene Expunction Clinic to Provide Legal Assistance for Texans Seeking to Clear Criminal Records *Application Deadline is March 11 for April 29 Expunction Expo*

ABILENE, TX – On April 29, members of the Clean Slate Texas coalition will host an expunction clinic to help community members clear eligible Texas criminal records through expunction and/or nondisclosure. **Legal assistance will be provided only to those who submit applications, which are due March 11.** The application link is available in both English and Spanish [here](#).

The clinic is sponsored by Big Country Reentry Coalition, Goodwill-West Texas, Texas Center for Justice and Equity, Texas Fair Defense Project, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, and Blizzard & Zimmerman Attorneys, with food provided by H-E-B.

Application and Eligibility Information:

- Applicants must upload a copy of their DPS Criminal History Report when applying. This report can be obtained by making an appointment (<http://bit.ly/identogo>), paying \$25.53, and getting fingerprinted. For application and potential fee assistance, applicants can contact Goodwill-West Texas at (325) 676-7925.
- Completion of the application is not a guarantee that applicants will receive assistance.
- Eligible applicants include those with criminal records in Texas who:
 - Were arrested but never formally charged in court
 - Had charges dismissed
 - Were acquitted or found not guilty at trial
 - Completed a pretrial intervention or diversion program
 - Have a conviction for unlawfully carrying a weapon
 - Have a first misdemeanor conviction
 - Have successfully completed deferred adjudication community supervision
- Felony convictions are not eligible for record sealing under Texas law.

Key Definitions:

- An Order of Expunction is an order to completely destroy all records related to the underlying criminal charge.
- An Order of Nondisclosure allows for all or part of an individual's record to be sealed from the public (not including law enforcement or other state agencies).
- As nondisclosures and expunctions are state processes, the federal government can still access criminal records.

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Event Details:

- The Expunction Clinic will take place on April 29, 2022, in Abilene. The event location will be emailed to eligible applicants along with their appointment time.
- Volunteer law students supervised by practicing attorneys will go over prepared expunction and/or nondisclosure petitions, help participants complete a Statement of Inability to Afford Court Costs, and provide guidance on next steps.
- This event will follow CDC, state, and local public health guidelines related to COVID-19. Participants will have their temperature taken and social distancing will be practiced. Mask wearing is highly encouraged during all portions of the event.
- Participants will not be charged for information or assistance received through the Expunction Clinic, but they are responsible for any fees assessed related to an expunction or nondisclosure.

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The Texas Center for Justice and Equity (formerly the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition) advances solutions and builds coalitions to end mass incarceration and foster safer Texas communities.