

Clean Slate Legal Assistance Project

Venicia Considine, Gwen Dixon, & Jason Fisher

Since 1958
LEGAL AID CENTER
 *of Southern Nevada*

Record Sealing in Nevada

- Too often, a criminal record stops someone from being able to turn their life around as employers will not hire them with a criminal record.
- Nevada law allows for the sealing of many old felonies and misdemeanors. However, to do so, a procedurally complicated process must be followed: a person must obtain their criminal records from arresting agencies, send the application to law enforcement, research all charges in seven potential courts to ensure eligibility (not all records can be sealed), prepare a petition, serve on prosecuting agencies, go to court, and then distribute the order for sealing to multiple parties. The complexity of the process makes it extremely complicated for anyone to do on their own.

Clean Slate Legal Assistance Grant

- Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada applied for the County's Clean Slate Legal Assistance Grant in Summer 2022.
- To provide record sealing services to approximately 500 individuals annually to increase access to record sealing services for low-income residents with incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Individuals Assisted

Between September 2022 & May 2024,
the Clean Slate Team met with over

1,875

individuals seeking to seal records

Clean Slate Legal Assistance Project

Litigation cases

649

Court Ordered Sealings

418

Other Assistance

- Eligibility - 53%
- Counsel & Advice - 16%
- Client withdrew/ Lost contact - 9%
- Over Income – 8%
- Jurisdiction - 6%
- Referred – 4%
- Uncooperative/ Rejected – 3%
- Capable of Self Representation - 1%

Clean Slate Legal Assistance Project Clients

I was able to qualify for a job that pays enough to not live in poverty or depend on government aid.

It has given me freedom again. I no longer have my dark past coming back to haunt me, I am so grateful. I also no longer have to worry about people judging me about my past mistakes. For that I am forever grateful.

I am engaged in a first-time home buyers' Project and I'm certain that without the stigma of being a convicted person I will have a better opportunity to secure funding.

Clean Slate Legal Assistance Project Clients

The record sealing helped me to be eligible as a social work intern and it will allow me to become a licensed social worker upon completion of my degree

With the completion of my record sealing, I have been able to secure employment with a Strip resort and am now a member of the union.

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It has helped me personally in knowing that anything can be accomplished if you are consistent and show up for yourself. Also my 13 year old son is really proud of his momma.

It closes a chapter of my life that I would rather leave in the past.

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Beyond its obvious impact on employment opportunities, the sealing of my records has offered several other benefits. One significant advantage is the restoration of my privacy and the ability to move forward without the burden of my past mistakes looming over me. The sealing of my records has also contributed to my improved mental and emotional well-being. For me, past legal issues have caused ongoing stress, anxiety, and feelings of shame or inadequacy. Having my records sealed has provided a sense of relief and liberation, allowing me to focus on my future rather than dwelling on past indiscretions. Overall, this experience has enhanced my quality of life by helping me to regain a sense of dignity and self-worth. It is a powerful symbol of redemption and second chances, affirming that everyone deserves the opportunity to learn from their mistakes, grow, and contribute positively to society!

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Questions

Thank you

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