



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

SEALING NON-CONVICTION CRIMINAL RECORDS & ARRESTS

Am I eligible to seal a non-conviction record?

You are not eligible if you have any criminal charges currently pending against you at the time that you submit your sealing application through the date of the hearing. This includes things like speeding tickets and warrants for your arrest.

What non-convictions are eligible to be sealed?

All of the charges in the case must have been dismissed, acquitted, no billed, nolle, ignored, or otherwise gotten rid of. The terms can be found on your record.

If the record or arrest you want sealed involves both non-convictions and convictions, the conviction charge must be eligible to be sealed in order for the non-conviction charge to be sealed (see the FCMC Self Help Resource Center Conviction FAQs for more information).

When can I apply to seal a non-conviction record?

For Grand Jury no bills or ignored charges, you must wait 2 years from the date of the no bill to apply to have the non-conviction sealed.

For other types of non-convictions (i.e. dismissed, acquitted, etc.), there is no waiting period. You can apply for a sealing at any time.

Where can I get a non-conviction record sealed?

Sealings and Expungements Section window
on the 2nd Floor
Franklin County Municipal Court Building
375 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215



Franklin County Municipal Court (FCMC) Self Help Resource Center

Is there a fee for applying to seal a non-conviction record?

Filing an application to seal a non-conviction is always free. If the charge you want sealed contains both convictions and non-convictions, you must pay the \$50 fee to seal a conviction.

What if I cannot afford the fee?

You have the right to have the fee waived by filing a poverty affidavit. If you would like to see if you qualify, visit us at the FCMC Self Help Resource Center.

If you qualify, pick up a form from the Sealing and Expungements Section window but **DO NOT SIGN IT**. Take the form to the Duty Room for review (10th Floor of the Municipal Court building) before filing the sealing application. If the judge concludes that you cannot afford the application fee, the fee will be waived when you file your application.

About the Franklin County Municipal Court Self Help Resource Center

The Self Help Center is a free walk-in service to help you represent yourself in court without a lawyer. We cannot offer legal advice, but can point you to helpful resources. The Center is open on a walk-in basis – no appointment necessary.

WALK IN

375 S. High St., 6th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
(last visitors accepted at 2:30 PM)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.fcmselfhelpcenter.org

Includes helpful legal and research resources and materials on various legal issues.