

**STOW MUNICIPAL COURT**  
**Community Control Office**

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 StowMuniCourt.com

The following is intended to provide basic information about the process to seal or expunge records related to cases in the Stow Municipal Court. If you need additional information or if you have legal questions, you should contact an attorney.

**Application Process**

1. Verify that you have no open cases or active warrants in any courts, all fines have been paid, and all court orders have been completed.
2. Refer to the following information to determine if your case(s) is eligible for sealing and/or expungement.
3. Complete the Stow Municipal Court’s [Application to Seal or Expunge Records](#) and submit it to the Clerk of Court’s Office with the \$50 application fee.
4. Once an application is filed, it will be forwarded to the Community Control Department to conduct a background investigation and eligibility and if you have been satisfactorily rehabilitated before making a recommendation to the judge or magistrate.
5. If necessary, an oral hearing will be scheduled in no less than 45 days and no more than 90 days from the date the application is filed.

**WHAT OFFENSES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE SEALED OR EXPUNGED:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> degree felony convictions
- 3 or more 3<sup>rd</sup> degree felony convictions
- Offenses in which the victim of the offense was less than 13 years old.
- Offenses of Violence
- Sexually Oriented Offenses
- Traffic Offenses

**Sexually Oriented Offenses (§2950 – O.R.C.) | NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SEALING OR EXPUNGEMENT**

§2905.02(B)	Abduction	§2907.22	Promoting Prostitution
§2907.21	Compelling Prostitution	§2907.09	Public Indecency
§2905.05(B)	Child Enticement	§2907.02	Rape
§2919.22(B)(5)	Child Endangering	§2907.03	Sexual Battery
§2907.05	Gross Sexual Imposition	§2907.06	Sexual Imposition
§2907.323	Illegal use of minor in nudity-oriented material or performance	§2905.32	Trafficking in Persons
§2907.07	Importuning	§2905.03(B)	Unlawful Restraint
§2907.32	Pandering Obscenity	§2907.04	Unlawful Sexual Conduct w/a Minor
§2907.321	Pandering Obscenity involving a minor	§2903.03(B)	Voluntary Manslaughter
§2907.322	Pandering Obscenity involving an impaired person	§2907.08	Voyeurism

<b>Offenses of Violence (§2901 – O.R.C.)   NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SEALING OR EXPUNGEMENT</b>			
§2905.01	Abduction	§2923.161	Improperly Discharging of a Firearm
§2909.02	Aggravated Arson	§2917.01	Inciting Violence
§2903.12	Aggravated Assault	§2917.31	Inducing Panic
§2911.11	Aggravated Burglary	§2921.03	Intimidation
§2903.21	Aggravated Menacing	§2921.04	Intimidation of an Attorney, Victim, or Witness
§2917.02	Aggravated Rioting	§2903.04	Involuntary Manslaughter
§2911.01	Aggravated Robbery	§2905.01	Kidnapping
§2909.03	Arson	§2903.22	Menacing
§2903.13	Assault (felony)	§2903.211	Menacing by Stalking
§2911.12	Burglary	§2903.02	Murder
§2919.25	Domestic Violence	§2903.34(A)(1)	Patient Abuse or Neglect
§2919.22	Endangering Children	§2907.02	Rape
§2921.34	Escape	§2917.03	Rioting
§2905.11	Extortion	§2911.02	Robbery
§2903.11	Felonious Assault	§2903.18	Strangulation or Suffocation
§2907.12	Felonious Sexual Penetration	§2909.24	Terrorism
§2907.05	Gross Sexual Imposition	§2905.32	Trafficking in Persons

<b>Mandatory Waiting Periods</b>		
<b>Type of Case:</b>		<b>Waiting Period</b>
Dismissed cases & findings of not guilty	➔	Eligible to apply for <b>Sealing</b> any time after the case is closed.
		<b>NOT</b> Eligible for Expungement at any time
Minor Misdemeanor Convictions	➔	Eligible to apply <b>Sealing and/or Expungement 6 months</b> after discharge
1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> Degree Misdemeanor Convictions	➔	Eligible to apply for <b>Sealing and/or Expungement 1 year</b> after discharge
4 <sup>th</sup> or 5 <sup>th</sup> Degree Felony Convictions	➔	Eligible to apply for <b>Sealing 1 year</b> after final discharge
		Eligible to apply for <b>Expungement 11 years</b> after final discharge
3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree Felonies (no more than two) Convictions	➔	Eligible to apply for <b>Sealing 3 years</b> after final discharge
		Eligible to apply for <b>Expungement 13 years</b> after final discharge

**Final Discharge** occurs when all sentencing orders and conditions of have expired. That means all terms and conditions of Community Control or Probation have been satisfied, all Driver's License Suspensions have ended and all orders to "Obey All Laws" for a specified term has expired.

**Sealing Records:** If a court grants an application to seal the record of case(s), it is removed from public view at the court and all related public agencies. Further, and the conviction cannot be used to exclude someone from employment or housing opportunities (except for state licensing boards – i.e. nursing, childcare, and law enforcement).

**Expunging Records:** If a court orders a record expunged, it is physically destroyed as if it never happened.