

Stow Municipal Court

Community Control Office

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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. Ohio law on sealing and expunging cases can be found in Ohio Revised Code, Section 2953.

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 \$100 application fee or affidavit of indigency.
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:

- Traffic convictions
- Domestic Violence convictions (4th degree misdemeanor is allowed)
- Violating Protection Order convictions
- Offenses in which the victim of the offense was less than 13 years old (does not apply to nonsupport of dependents)
- Sexually oriented offenses when the applicant is subject to the requirements of ORC Chapter 2950 (sex offender registry)
- Felony offenses of violence that are not sexually oriented offenses
- A 3rd degree felony if applicant has exactly two 3rd degree felonies + two misdemeanors + any other convictions
- A 3rd degree felony if applicant has two or more felonies of any degree
- 1st or 2nd degree felonies

Sexually Oriented Offenses (per R.C. 2950.01)

2905.02.02(B)	Abduction
2903.01	Aggravated murder (check R.C. 2950.01 for extended definition)
2907.21	Compelling prostitution
2905.05(B)	Criminal child enticement
2919.22(B)(5)	Endangering children
2903.11	Felonious assault (check R.C. 2950.01 for extended definition)
2907.05	Gross sexual imposition
2907.323	Illegal use of minor in nudity-oriented material or performance
2907.07	Importuning
2903.04(A)	Involuntary manslaughter (check R.C. 2950.01 for extended definition)
2905.01	Kidnapping (check R.C. 2950.01 for extended definition)
2903.211(A)(3)	Menacing by stalking
2903.02	Murder (check R.C. 2950.01 for extended definition)
2907.32	Pandering obscenity
2907.321	Pandering obscenity involving a minor or impaired person
2907.322	Pandering sexually oriented matter involving a minor or impaired person
2907.22	Promoting prostitution
2907.09	Public indecency (check R.C. 2950.01 for extended definition)
2907.02	Rape
2907.03	Sexual battery
2907.06	Sexual imposition
2905.32	Trafficking in persons (check R.C. 2950.01 for extended definition)
2905.03(B)	Unlawful restraint
2907.04	Unlawful sexual conduct with minor (check R.C. 2950.01 for extended definition)
2903.03(B)	Voluntary manslaughter
2907.08	Voyeurism

Offenses of Violence (per R.C. 2901.01)

2905.02	Abduction
2909.02	Aggravated arson
2903.12	Aggravated assault
2911.11	Aggravated burglary
2903.21	Aggravated menacing
2903.01	Aggravated murder
2917.02	Aggravated riot
2911.01	Aggravated robbery
2909.03	Arson
2903.13	Assault
2911.12(A)(1),(2) or (3)	Burglary
2919.25	Domestic violence
2919.22(B)(1),(2),(3) or (4)	Endangering children
2921.34	Escape
2905.11	Extortion
2903.11	Felonious assault
2907.12	(former) Felonious sexual penetration
2907.05	Gross sexual imposition
2923.161	Improperly discharging firearm
2917.01	Inciting to violence
2917.31	Inducing panic
2921.03	Intimidation
2921.04	Intimidation of attorney, victim or witness
2903.04	Involuntary manslaughter

Offenses of Violence (per R.C. 2901.01) continued

2905.01	Kidnapping
2903.22	Menacing
2903.211	Menacing by stalking
2903.02	Murder
2903.34(A)(1)	Patient abuse or neglect
2903.15	Permitting child abuse
2907.02	Rape
2917.03	Riot
2911.02	Robbery
2907.03	Sexual battery
2903.18	Strangulation or suffocation
2917.321	Swatting
2909.24	Terrorism
2905.32	Trafficking in persons
2903.03	Voluntary manslaughter

Type of Case:		Waiting Period:
Dismissed cases & findings of not guilty	→	If dismissed w/o prejudice, not eligible until the statute of limitations expires. If dismissed w/ prejudice, eligible immediately.
Minor Misdemeanor Convictions	→	Eligible to apply Sealing and/or Expungement 6 months after final discharge
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Degree Misdemeanor Convictions	→	Eligible to apply for Sealing and/or Expungement 1 year after final discharge
4th or 5th Degree Felony Convictions	→	Eligible to apply for Sealing 1 year after final discharge
		Eligible to apply for Expungement 11 years after final discharge
3rd Degree Felonies Convictions	→	Eligible to apply for Sealing 3 years after final discharge
		Eligible to apply for Expungement 13 years after final discharge

Final Discharge. A case is discharged when a person has fully completed any jail or prison sentence, any terms of community control, probation or parole, all payments of fines or fees that were a penalty of the conviction, all driver's license suspensions have ended and all orders to "Obey All Laws" for a specified period 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.