Have a JUVENILE RECORD?

PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE!

INDIANA

NATIONAL JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER
HAVE A JUVENILE RECORD? PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE!

A Guide to Collateral Consequences of Juvenile Court Involvement

Your juvenile record doesn’t disappear when you turn 18.
Introduction

As you move forward with your life after being involved in the juvenile court system, this guide provides information about what obstacles may lie ahead and how to prepare yourself.

The court and police paperwork about your case is called your “juvenile record.” This record can affect your life for years to come. But you can still pursue your goals and build a bright future by understanding the barriers caused by a juvenile record and knowing what to do and where to go to get help.

The road forward may have some challenges — but we hope this guide will show you that progress can be made and there is a community of advocates in Indiana who are here to help you succeed.

“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” — Lao Tzu
Glossary

**Adjudication**: An adjudication is when a juvenile court judge decides that you broke the law. It is not a conviction.¹

**Collateral Consequences**: Collateral consequences are the ways that your juvenile record can create challenges for you as you move forward with your life, like getting a job, applying for college, finding a place to live, joining the military, or simply obtaining a driver’s license.

**Defense Lawyer**: Your defense lawyer is the lawyer who defended you in your juvenile case. The lawyer may have been from the public defender’s office or appointed by the judge. Your defense lawyer's job is to defend your rights and to make sure the court hears your point of view in your juvenile case. Your lawyer may also be able to help you after your case is over.

**Disposition**: A disposition in juvenile court is similar to a sentence in adult court. The disposition in your case is what the judge requires you to do because the judge decided that you broke the law. Your disposition could include probation, attending a treatment program, paying money, or being sent to a juvenile facility.

**Expungement**: If your juvenile record is expunged, the record will no longer be available to the public and you do not need to reveal anything about your juvenile court involvement on most college, job, or housing applications.² Getting your record expunged may help you overcome some of the collateral consequences described in this guide.

**Juvenile Record**: Your juvenile record includes the court records related to your juvenile case.

A juvenile adjudication is not a conviction.
Making the Most of This Guide

Having a juvenile record may get in the way of future opportunities. These barriers created by your juvenile record are called “collateral consequences.” This guide provides basic information about the collateral consequences of a juvenile record in Indiana and what you can do to overcome them.

Every young person’s situation is different. Depending on the charge you faced in court, you may have a suspended driver’s license or trouble enrolling back into school. The Summary Chart on page 6 tells you which collateral consequences are addressed in this guide, and where in the guide to look for more details. You can read the entire guide or jump to the sections that matter most to you.

Following the discussion on collateral consequences, you will find a Resources section. There are many organizations in Indiana that are available to help you address the problems you are facing. The Resources section includes contact information for your local public defender office and organizations that can assist you with education, housing, immigration, and other collateral consequences.

This guide only talks about the consequences of juvenile court involvement — not adult criminal court involvement. Sometimes when youth are accused of serious crimes, they are charged as an adult and tried in criminal court even though they are under 18 years old. Here, we will only focus on juvenile court records.

Because the law is always changing, some of the information in this guide might become outdated. Also, this guide does not discuss every collateral consequence or every detail of each consequence. Contact the lawyer who represented you in juvenile court or someone at your local public defender office to make sure you have the most current information you need.

This guide is only intended to provide information, not legal advice.
Talking About Your Juvenile Record

It's important to pay attention to the specific words used when someone asks you a question in an interview or when you're filling out an application. If you are asked if you have a conviction or if you have ever been convicted of a crime, you can answer “No,” as long as you do not have any adult court convictions. A juvenile adjudication is not a criminal conviction.³

In Indiana, many juvenile records are available to the public, which means information about your case could show up on a background check done by colleges, employers, or landlords.⁴

So, it’s important that you are prepared to answer questions about your juvenile record.

Tips on how to talk about your juvenile record:

• **Talk with the lawyer who represented you in your juvenile case or a lawyer from your local public defender office** to learn how you should answer questions about your juvenile record. A lawyer can provide you with specific advice on how to talk about your juvenile court involvement.

• **The person interviewing you may not understand that a juvenile adjudication is not the same thing as a criminal conviction, so you may need to explain that an adjudication is not a conviction.**

• **Be brief and don’t give too many details.**
  - For example, you can simply say: “I have a juvenile adjudication from 2017.”
  - A lawyer can help you figure out what exactly to say if you are asked for specific information about your juvenile adjudication.
  - It may be ok to say something like, “I have worked hard to move past that part of my life and hope we can focus on my goals and what I can offer as an employee/student.”

• **Talk about how you have learned from your past.** “I am sorry about what happened. I have learned a lot since then, and I realize it is important to work hard and move my life in a more positive direction.”
• **Avoid blaming others.** It is important to focus on the positive things you have done since your juvenile court involvement. Blaming others will not take the focus off you. Instead, it may make your interviewer think that you are not ready to take on new responsibilities.

• **Focus on the positive things you are doing in your life.**
  - I have good grades.
  - I graduated from high school (or completed my GED).
  - I’m attending college.
  - I volunteer with____________________ (organization).
  - I have a job at____________________.
  - I help take care of my younger siblings.
  - I help with household responsibilities, like chores and running errands for my parents.

• **Practice!** Sometimes it is hard to talk about your juvenile court involvement. Practice with a lawyer, friend, or mentor to make sure you feel comfortable.

• **Ask for a letter from a mentor, teacher, or other trusted leader that talks about your skills and strengths.** The letter can help show the employer or school that you work hard, show up on time, follow the rules, have a positive attitude, and are able to do the job or complete the educational program.

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**CAUTION!** Many juvenile records are available to the public and could show up on background checks done by colleges, employers, or landlords.
# MY JUVENILE RECORD

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<td><strong>1. Who can look at my juvenile record?</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2. Can I keep people from being able to look at my juvenile record?</strong></td>
<td>You may be able to get your juvenile record expunged, which means that it would no longer be available to the public and you do not need to reveal anything about your juvenile court involvement on college, job, or housing applications.</td>
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<td><strong>3. Can my juvenile record be used against me in later juvenile or adult cases?</strong></td>
<td>Maybe. Having a juvenile record can sometimes lead to serious consequences in a later case.</td>
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### SCHOOL

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4. **Will my juvenile record affect my ability to go to my local public school?**
   - Maybe. Your juvenile record can be shared with your school and may affect your ability to continue to attend the same school.

5. **Can I get accepted into college, technical school, or a trade program if I have a juvenile record?**
   - Yes, but you may need to say you have a juvenile record on some college applications or your juvenile record may show up on a background check, which could affect the school’s decision to accept you.

6. **Can I get a federal student loan to help pay for college, technical school, or a trade program?**
   - Your juvenile record should not impact your ability to get federal student loans to help pay for school.

### JOBS AND THE MILITARY

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7. **Can I get a job if I have a juvenile record?**
   - Yes, but you may need to say you have a juvenile record on some job applications or your juvenile record may show up on a background check, which could affect the employer’s decision to hire you.
8. Can I join the military if I have a juvenile record?

Maybe. Your juvenile record may make it harder for you to enlist in the military.

9. Will my juvenile record affect my immigration status?

It’s complicated. Your juvenile record might affect your ability to remain in the United States.

10. Can I get public benefits (food stamps, Medicaid, SSI, and TANF) with a juvenile record? What happens to my benefits if I am locked up?

You should be able to get public benefits with a juvenile record. But, getting locked up might affect your family’s food stamps (SNAP), Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits.
11. Can I live in public housing or rent an apartment if I have a juvenile record?

Maybe. A juvenile record may limit your public housing options, depending on the type of offense and where it happened. Because many juvenile records are public and can appear on background checks, private landlords may find out about your juvenile record, which could affect the landlord’s decision to rent to you.

12. What happens if I don’t pay the court-ordered fees or restitution?

Unpaid court fees or restitution can make it harder to get loans, a car, and even a job because of bad credit.

13. Do I have to register on the sex offender registry if I have a sex offense on my juvenile record?

If you were adjudicated for a sex offense, were 14 years old or older, and the judge determined you were likely to commit another sex offense, you may have to register on the sex offender registry.
### Other Consequences (Cont.)

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<td>14. Can I get or keep my driver’s license or state ID if I have a juvenile record?</td>
<td>The juvenile court judge can suspend your driver’s license or permit as part of the disposition order for any offense. Your juvenile record should not impact your ability to get or keep a state ID.</td>
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<td>15. Can I vote if I only have a juvenile record?</td>
<td>Yes. Your juvenile record will not impact your right to vote.</td>
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<td>16. Can I serve on a jury if I only have a juvenile record?</td>
<td>Yes. Your juvenile record will not impact your ability to serve on a jury.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17. Can I own or carry a gun if I have a juvenile record?</td>
<td>Maybe. You may not be allowed to own or carry a gun until you are 23 years old if you were adjudicated of a felony.</td>
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Collateral Consequences in Indiana

Note to the reader: This section includes endnotes (small numbers at the end of a sentence or phrase that correspond to additional information at the end of the guide). The endnotes often tell you what laws or rules apply to the sentence containing the endnote number.

MY JUVENILE RECORD

1. Who can look at my juvenile record?

Anyone can find information about your juvenile court involvement if you were charged with:

- a felony,
- two separate misdemeanors that happened after you turned 12 years old, or
- five separate misdemeanors that happened before you turned 12 years old.

In all other situations, your juvenile record will be confidential, which means that it will not be available for everyone to look at. However, police, prosecutors, probation officers, judges, and court employees may view these records. You and your lawyer can also look at your confidential juvenile record. A judge may share your confidential juvenile record with someone else, but only if the judge decides that person has a “legitimate interest” in your case.

Information about your juvenile court involvement can be shared with your school in certain circumstances. Go to Question 4 of this guide for more information about when your school may be told about your juvenile court involvement and what impact that could have on your ability to continue attending the same school.
2. How can I keep people from looking at my juvenile record?

Many juvenile records are available to the public unless they are expunged. Getting your juvenile record expunged would prevent most people from being able to look at it, and expunging your record would prevent it from showing up on most background checks.

To get your record expunged, you can file a request with the juvenile court at any time. You will need to give a copy of your request to the prosecutor’s office, who will have 30 days to respond. If the prosecutor objects, the judge will hold a hearing so you can tell the judge why you think your record should be expunged. If the prosecutor does not respond or agrees that you should have your record expunged, the judge can expunge your record without having a hearing, or the judge may decide to have a hearing anyway.
If there is a hearing, the judge will decide whether to expunge your juvenile record. The judge can consider your age at the time of the offense, the seriousness of the offense, whether you successfully followed the court-ordered services or probation, whether you've had other legal problems, your education and employment status, and any other information the court thinks is important.\textsuperscript{16}

You could tell the judge that having your record expunged may keep you from having to report it on applications or keep your record from showing up on background checks. Getting your juvenile record expunged would make it easier for you to go to college, get a job, or locate housing. You may also explain that you completed everything you were supposed to do for your juvenile case, and you would like to keep your record from blocking opportunities in the future.

If you were arrested but never adjudicated, the court must expunge your record if: (1) you file a request to expunge your record; (2) at least one year has passed since the arrest or dismissal of the case, whichever occurred last; and (3) you do not have any adult criminal charges pending against you.\textsuperscript{17}

Once your juvenile record is expunged, you do not need to reveal anything about your juvenile court involvement on most college, job, or housing applications.\textsuperscript{18} However, expunged juvenile records may still show up in a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) background check – which may be required for jobs related to working with children and vulnerable adults, law enforcement, the federal government, or the military. Be prepared to talk about your juvenile record and follow the tips on page 4.

Make sure to get a copy of your complete court record before it is expunged because the court may not be able to give you records that have

Figuring out the best arguments to get your record expunged can be tricky. Talk to a lawyer to get help!
been expunged without special permission. This is especially true if you have any interest in joining the military.

For questions related to expunging your juvenile record, contact the lawyer who represented you in juvenile court or go to the Resources section at the end of this guide to find contact information for your local public defender or legal aid office. The Indiana Public Defender Council’s website has a description of expunging juvenile records, along with links to helpful forms: www.in.gov/ipdc/public/2654.htm.

3. Can my juvenile record be used against me in later juvenile or adult criminal cases?

Maybe. A judge may be able to look at your juvenile record when deciding whether to send you to a facility before trial or what disposition or sentence to give you in a later juvenile or adult criminal case. The judge could also look at your record to decide if your case should be transferred to adult criminal court.

If you have a juvenile adjudication for certain offenses, the judge or jury in a later case can question whether you will tell the truth in court, based on your juvenile record.

4. Will my juvenile record affect my ability to go to my local public school?

Maybe. Your juvenile court involvement may affect your ability to stay at the same school. Your school will be notified if you are arrested or taken into custody for a serious offense, like murder, battery (assault), sex crime, robbery (2 or 3), arson, or drug offenses. Additionally, your school can get information about your juvenile court involvement by requesting it...
“Talk to a lawyer or other knowledgeable adult about what to say in a school meeting because what you say can be used against you in a juvenile or criminal court case.”
from the court.\textsuperscript{23} Your school can use this information to suspend, expel, or reassign you to an alternative educational program even if the offense did not occur at school.\textsuperscript{24}

School officials must follow certain rules and procedures to suspend or expel you from school. A lawyer or other education advocate can help you challenge the suspension or expulsion decision and help you understand the process and your rights.

If your school decides to suspend you for one to ten days, your principal must provide you with the reason for the suspension and give you a summary of evidence against you.\textsuperscript{25} You must also be given an opportunity to explain your side to the principal and challenge the suspension.\textsuperscript{26}

If your school decides to expel you (which means that you are not allowed to attend school for more than ten days), the school must give you and your parents written notice of the expulsion, reasons for the expulsion, and the procedure to request a meeting to challenge the expulsion.\textsuperscript{27} If you do not request an expulsion meeting according to the procedures in the notice, you will not be allowed to challenge the expulsion.\textsuperscript{28}

If you bring a firearm, something that could explode, or some other deadly weapon to school or a school-sponsored activity, the school must expel you for at least one year.\textsuperscript{29} However, the school is allowed to modify this requirement on a case-by-case basis.\textsuperscript{30}

If you’re 16 years old or older when you try to reenroll after an expulsion, your principal may require you to attend an alternative school or evening classes before allowing you to return to your regular school.\textsuperscript{31}

You can challenge the school’s decision to suspend or expel you by filing an appeal with the school board or court in your county, but you should do so right away. A lawyer or other knowledgeable adult can help you prepare for what to say. Go to the Resources section at the end of this guide for contact information for organizations that may be able to assist you.
5. Can I get accepted into college, technical school, or a trade program if I have a juvenile record?

Yes. Pay close attention to how the college application asks about your record. If the application asks if you have a conviction, you can answer “No,” if you only have a juvenile record and no adult record. A juvenile adjudication is not a conviction in Indiana. If the application asks about adjudications, you will likely need to include information about your juvenile record unless your record has been expunged.

The Common Application (Common App) is an application used by more than 800 colleges and universities around the country (including Purdue University and Indiana University). The Common App no longer asks all applicants to answer questions about juvenile and criminal records. However, it does allow colleges to ask about these records on their supplemental forms, which must be turned in with the Common App when applying to their school.

The Common App also asks about school discipline violations. You are required to report your school discipline violations on the Common App, even if they are related to your confidential, sealed, or expunged juvenile record.

You can be accepted into college even with a juvenile record. Don’t let your juvenile record keep you from applying!

Before you begin an educational, technical, or trade program designed for a particular job, you should first check to make sure you can get licensed to do that job once your program is completed. For instance, if you have certain serious adjudications on your record, you may not be allowed to work as an emergency medical technician (EMT). Go to Question 8 for more information about how a juvenile record might affect your ability to get a job. The Resources section at the end of this guide has contact information for organizations that may be able to help you understand job licensing requirements.
6. Can I get a federal student loan to help pay for college, technical school, or a trade program?

Yes. To apply for a federal student loan to help pay for college, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA asks whether you have been convicted of a drug charge while receiving federal student loans. If you only have juvenile adjudications, you can answer “No” to this question — even if your juvenile record includes a drug-related offense — because this question is asking about adult convictions, not juvenile adjudications. And if you have never received federal student aid before, you can also answer “No” because the question is asking if you were convicted while receiving federal financial aid.

JOBS AND THE MILITARY

7. Can I get a job if I have a juvenile record?

Yes. Most job applications ask about convictions. If you do not have any adult criminal convictions, you can answer “No” because a juvenile adjudication is not a criminal conviction.

However, many juvenile records are available to the public and may show up on a background check. Getting your juvenile record expunged would prevent it from showing up on most background checks. Go to Question 2 of this guide for information about expunging your juvenile record.

Even if you get your juvenile record expunged, your record may still show up in a FBI background check – which may be required for jobs related to working with finances, children, vulnerable adults, law enforcement, security, the federal government, or the military. You should be prepared to briefly explain that your juvenile adjudication is not the same as a criminal conviction. Follow the tips on page 4 on how to talk about your juvenile record.
“Remember if an application asks whether you’ve been convicted of a crime, you can answer “No” as long as you do not have any adult court convictions.”
Just like you need a driver’s license to legally drive a car, some jobs require you to have an occupational license in order to do certain work. For example, barbers, electricians, emergency medical technicians, nurses, and teachers must have occupational licenses. The application for an occupational license might ask about your juvenile record. Please remember to read the questions on the application carefully so that you answer only what is asked.

8. Can I join the military if I have a juvenile record?

Maybe. Your juvenile record might make it harder for you to join the military. Generally, the U.S. military does not treat juvenile records any differently than adult records. If your record involves selling drugs, domestic violence, or a felony, you may need to request special permission (a waiver) to enlist. If your record includes a juvenile adjudication involving a sexual offense, you will not be able to join the military and no waivers are available. Each branch of the military has different rules about waivers. For more information, visit www.usa.gov/join-military or contact a recruiter.

You may need to give the military a copy of your juvenile court paperwork, even if your record has been expunged. Make sure to get a copy of your complete court record before it is expunged because the court may not give you records that have been destroyed. Go to Question 2 of this guide for information about expunging your juvenile record.

9. Will my juvenile record affect my immigration status?

Maybe. Talk to an immigration lawyer to find out whether your juvenile record affects your ability to stay in the United States or obtain legal U.S. resident status in the future. If you’re adjudicated of certain types of offenses, it will be more difficult to get legal immigration status.
“If anyone from the FBI or ICE asks you questions, especially about your immigration status or where you were born, you do not have to answer their questions without a lawyer.”
To help your lawyer figure out possible ways that you can get immigration status, tell your lawyer if you:

- Have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by a parent;
- Have been a victim of human trafficking or sex trafficking, or the victim of any crime; or,
- Are undocumented or have a green card or other type of legal status, such as a U visa.

Remember: Everything you tell your lawyer is confidential. This means your lawyer can’t share anything you tell them without your permission.

If you’re undocumented or don’t have legal status, even just being taken into custody can cause problems. If you’re taken into custody or arrested by the police, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) may try to pick you up when you are released from the local jail or detention facility.

For help with immigration issues, go to the Resources section at the end of this guide to find organizations that may be able to provide you with legal representation in immigration matters. You can also find more information in the Immigrant Legal Resource Center’s Guide for Immigrant Youth: https://www.ilrc.org/living-united-states-guide-immigrant-youth.

10. Can I get public benefits (food stamps, Medicaid, SSI, and TANF) with a juvenile record? What happens to my benefits if I’m locked up?

Yes. You should be able to get most public benefits with a juvenile record. If the application asks about convictions and you only have a juvenile record and no adult convictions, you can answer “No” because a juvenile adjudication is not a conviction in Indiana.
Getting locked up in a juvenile facility might affect things like food stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—SNAP), Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Your parents may not be able to receive SSI checks for you, and your family’s SNAP and TANF assistance could be reduced while you are locked up in a juvenile facility. If you have health insurance through Medicaid and you are sent to a secure juvenile facility, ask your lawyer, case manager, or probation officer for help to make sure your Medicaid is reinstated when you are released.

For help with public benefits, go to the Resources section at the end of this guide for contact information for the legal aid office in your area.

11. Can I live in public housing or rent an apartment if I have a juvenile record?

Maybe. You and your family may not be allowed to live in public housing if you are involved with certain criminal activities — especially drugs or violence — even if you don’t get arrested or go to court. In some situations, you may not be allowed to live in public housing at all; for example, if you have to be listed on a sex offender registry for your entire life or if you are convicted of making meth while on public housing property.
You may be able to challenge a housing authority’s decision to evict you or deny your housing application. Housing authorities are required to give you a hearing if you are denied housing or evicted for illegal activity.47

Many public housing and private rental applications ask about convictions. If you do not have any adult criminal convictions, you can answer “No” because a juvenile adjudication is not a criminal conviction.48 Some applications may ask about arrests, probation, or adjudications, and you may need to answer “Yes” to these questions if your juvenile record has not been expunged. Each housing application is different, so you should read the questions carefully.

A juvenile adjudication is not a conviction.

Many juvenile records are available to the public and may show up on a background check run by the local public housing authority, private rental company, or landlord.49 You should be prepared to briefly explain that your juvenile adjudication is not the same as a criminal conviction. Follow the tips on page 4 on how to talk about your juvenile record.

Getting your juvenile record expunged would prevent it from showing up on most background checks. And you will not need to reveal anything about your juvenile court involvement on housing applications.50 Go to Question 2 of this guide for information on expunging your juvenile record.

For help with housing issues, go to the Resources section at the end of this guide for contact information for the legal aid office in your area.
12. What happens if I don’t pay the court-ordered fees or restitution?

As part of your disposition or outcome of your case, the juvenile court judge may require you to pay court costs, probation fees, or restitution (an order to pay someone back for damage caused or property taken).

If you don’t pay all of the money the court ordered you to pay, money can be taken out of your paycheck or tax return. Unpaid court debt may also show up on your credit report. A credit report is like a school report card that shows how good or bad you’ve been about paying your bills. Having a bad credit report can make it harder for you to rent an apartment, get a school loan, buy a house or car, or get a credit card. It can also show up if you apply for a job where the employer asks for a credit check or background check, like many government jobs.

13. Do I have to register as a sex offender if I have a sex offense on my juvenile record?

Maybe. If you were adjudicated for a sex offense, and you were 14 years old or older, and the judge determined you were likely to commit another sex offense, you may have to register on the sex offender registry.

If the judge requires you to register, you will have to be photographed and give your local sheriff your social security number, driver’s license or state ID card number, address where you live and work, internet and social media contact information, email address, and information about any cars you own. If you change where you live, work, or attend school, you will need to update this information with the local county sheriff within 72 hours of the change.

Your name, physical description, address, photograph, and a description of the offense you were adjudicated for will be added to the online Indiana
If you have a sex offense on your record and you want to move or stay more than a few days in another state, contact a lawyer first to make sure your plans will not negatively affect you.  

sex offender registry, which is open to the public. You will not be allowed to live near a school, park, or daycare. Depending on your case, you may either be required to register for ten years or for the rest of your life.

If you fail to follow the sex offender registration requirements, you can face serious consequences, including being charged with a new felony offense and being sent to prison.

Whenever you leave Indiana for more than a few days, other states may require you to register on the sex offender registry in their state or notify local law enforcement of your presence. Talk to a lawyer to figure out whether traveling out of state may result in any of these issues.

If you have any questions about sex offender registration, contact the lawyer who represented you in your juvenile case or go to the Resources section at the end of this guide to find information on how to contact someone at your local public defender’s office.

14. Can I get or keep my driver’s license or state ID if I have a juvenile record?

 Maybe. The juvenile court judge can suspend your driver’s license or permit as part of the disposition order for any juvenile offense.

The judge is required to suspend your driver’s license or permit for at least 90 days—but no more than one year—if you are adjudicated for truancy (not attending school as required). If you are at least 16 years old and fail to attend school as the law requires, your school must notify the Bureau

“If you have a sex offense on your record and you want to move or stay more than a few days in another state, contact a lawyer first to make sure your plans will not negatively affect you.”
of Motor Vehicles (BMV), and the BMV will revoke your license or permit until you turn 18 years old.62

The suspension may show up on your driving record and increase the cost of car insurance. In addition, employers may request to see your driving record. A suspension could affect the employer’s decision to hire you.

Your juvenile record will not impact your ability to get a state ID. If you were placed in a juvenile facility, ask your case manager, probation officer, or your lawyer to help you get a state ID after you are released. A driver’s license or state ID is required for employment, housing, medical assistance, and many other important opportunities and resources.

15. Can I vote if I only have a juvenile record?

Yes. Your juvenile record will not impact your right to vote.63

16. Can I serve on a jury if I only have a juvenile record?

Yes. Your juvenile record will not impact your ability to serve on a jury.64

17. Can I own or carry a gun if I have a juvenile record?

Maybe. The law on carrying and owning guns is complicated, so make sure you do more research or talk to a lawyer. For instance, in most cases, no one under the age of 18 is allowed to possess a firearm.65 If you were adjudicated of a felony, you may not be allowed to carry a gun until you turn 23 years old.66
Resources

**Local Public Defender Office**
Most counties have either a public defender office and/or individual attorneys that provide legal representation to young people who cannot afford an attorney and are accused of breaking the law in Indiana. Your local public defender's office or the attorneys who provide juvenile defense services in your county can help you understand the eligibility requirements and process for sealing and expunging your juvenile record, and may be able to represent you in the matter. To find the contact information for the public defender office or court in your county, visit [www.in.gov/ipdc/public/2503.htm](http://www.in.gov/ipdc/public/2503.htm).

**Indiana Public Defender Council**
The Indiana Public Defender Council’s Post-Disposition Unit may be able to answer your questions or connect you with local attorneys or resources to help you address some of the barriers you are facing because of your juvenile court involvement. The Post-Disposition Unit also assists young people who have been committed to juvenile facilities in Indiana. To get help, call 317-232-7212.

**Indiana Legal Services**
Indiana Legal Services (ILS) provides free legal services to people below a certain income level. They can help with housing, public benefits, immigration, education, domestic violence cases, family law, and other types of cases that can cause serious problems in a person’s everyday life. They may also be able to help you expunge your juvenile record. ILS has nine regional offices. To find the ILS office that covers your county, visit [www.indianalegalservices.org/OfficeLocations](http://www.indianalegalservices.org/OfficeLocations) or call 844-243-8570 (Monday-Friday from 10am-2pm).

**Disability Legal Services of Indiana**
Disability Legal Services of Indiana advocates for children and adults with disabilities, primarily in education matters. They can assist students with developmental disabilities receive proper special education services in private or public schools or other settings. For more information or to apply for assistance, visit: [www.disabilitylegalservicesindiana.org/what-we-do](http://www.disabilitylegalservicesindiana.org/what-we-do) or call 317-426-7733.
Other Legal Aid Assistance
Several organizations in Indiana provide free to low-cost legal assistance to help with housing, debt, access to healthcare, public benefits, immigration, disability, employment, educational services, and expungement. To find a legal aid organization in your area, visit www.indianalegalhelp.org/find-legal-help.

National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC)
Contact NJDC if you’re having trouble finding a public defender, legal aid attorney, or other help with the collateral consequences of your juvenile court involvement. We will do our best to help find someone to assist you. For more information, visit www.njdc.info or call 202-452-0010.

IMMIGRATION

Catholic Charities – Diocese of Evansville
Catholic Charities – Diocese of Evansville provides low-cost legal services for a wide range of immigration matters, including: family-based petitions, citizenship and naturalization applications, applications to adjust status/permanent residency, asylum, visas for victims of serious crimes and trafficking, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and temporary protected status. For help, call 812-423-5456. They do not accept walk-ins. For more information, visit www.ccevansville.org/immigration-services.html.

Catholic Charities – Diocese of Indianapolis
Catholic Charities – Diocese of Indianapolis provides low-cost legal services for immigration matters, including naturalization, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and asylum. For help, call 317-592-4008. You must call to make an appointment. They do not accept walk-ins. For more information, visit www.archindy.org/cc/refugee/legal.html.

Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Catholic Charities – Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend provides immigration and refugee services, such as resettlement, status adjustments, family-based petitions, work authorization, and citizenship. They have offices in Fort Wayne (260-422-5625), South Bend (574-234-3111),
and Auburn (260-925-0917). For help, call the office closest to you. For more information, visit www.ccfwsb.org/service/preserving-life-dignity.

**Chicagoland Immigrant Welcome Network – Hammond**
The Welcome Network provides low-cost immigration services to those in Northwest Indiana. They partner with area churches, community organizations, and a local network of legal experts to assist with a variety of immigration issues, such as: adjustment of status, consular processing, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), employment authorization, family-based petitions, naturalization/citizenship, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), and visas for victims of serious crimes and trafficking. For help, call 219-276-3764. For more information, visit www.thewelcomenet.org/legalservices.

**Indiana Legal Services – Immigrants’ and Language Rights Center**
The Immigrants’ and Language Rights Center (ILRC) provides free legal representation on immigration matters and language-access issues to residents of Indiana, including visas for victims of serious crimes and trafficking, family-based petitions, citizenship/naturalization, defense in deportation or removal proceedings, asylum, and applications for legal permanent residence (green card). For help, call 866-964-2138, which is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30am to 4:30pm. For more information, visit www.indianalegalservices.org/ilrc.

**Lafayette Urban Ministry**
Lafayette Urban Ministry (LUM) provides assistance with immigration matters for residents of Tippecanoe, Benton, Carroll, Clinton, Montgomery, Warren, and White Counties. Their services include assisting individuals with citizenship, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), visas for victims of serious crimes and trafficking, asylum, and applications for legal permanent residence (green card). To get help, call 765-423-2691 or complete their online form (https://client.lumserve.org/assistance-programs/immigration-clinic/request-services). For more information, visit https://client.lumserve.org/assistance-programs/immigration-clinic.
Alternative House – Gary
The Alternative House provides housing, counseling, transportation, skills training, case management, and other support services for young people between 10 and 18 years old. To get help, call 219-938-7070 and select option 1. For more information, visit www.crisiscenterysb.org/a-house-%2F-promises.

Binkley House Emergency Youth Shelter Services – Bloomington
The Binkley House Youth Shelter provides housing, crisis intervention, counseling, education, recreation, transportation, and other support services to young people between 8 and 17 years old. The shelter is located at 615 South Adams Street in Bloomington. To get help, call 812-349-2507. For more information, visit www.co.monroe.in.us/topic/index.php?topicid=87&structureid=78.

Children’s Bureau Shelter at Gene Glick Family Support Center – Indianapolis
The Children’s Bureau provides housing and other support services for young people from birth to 17 years old. The shelter is located at 1575 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street in Indianapolis. To get help, call 317-264-2700 extension 221. For more information, visit www.childrensbureau.org/our-services/residential-care/#fb0=5.

Clark County Youth Shelter & Family Services – Jeffersonville
The Clark County Youth Shelter provides emergency and long-term residential services, food, clothing, medical and dental care, tutoring, counseling, and recreation for young people between 10 and 19 years old. The shelter is located at 118 East Chestnut Street in Jeffersonville. To get help, call 812-284-5229. For more information, visit www.ccysfs.org/index.php/clark-county-youth-shelter-and-family-service-programs.

Jefferson County Youth Shelter – Madison
Jefferson County Youth Shelter provides housing, meals, medical care, and other services for young people between 10 and 18 years old who have been involved in the juvenile court system and/or child welfare (abuse or neglect) system. The shelter is located at 212 East Street in Madison. For more information, visit www.jcysinc.org/about-us or call 812-265-3777.
Rachel Glick Courage Center – Indianapolis
The Rachel Glick Courage Center provides housing, counseling, food, recreation, and life skills services for young people between 8 and 18 years old who are involved in the juvenile court system and/or child welfare (abuse or neglect) system. The Center is located at 2115 Central Avenue in Indianapolis. To get help, call 317-986-7730. For more information, visit www.childrensbureau.org/rachel-glick-courage-center/#fb0=6.

Stopover – Indianapolis
Stopover provides housing, counseling, transportation, and recreation for young people between 12 and 17 years old. They also have a transitional living program for young people between 16 and 22 years old who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. If you are in crisis, call their 24-hour hotline at 317-635-9301. They are located at 2236 East 10th Street in Indianapolis. For more information, visit www.stopoverinc.org/programs.

Youth Service Bureau – South Bend
The Youth Service Bureau (YSB) provides housing, job training, financial literacy, art therapy, counseling, and educational services for young people between 12 and 18 years old. The shelter is located at 1322 Lincoln Way East in South Bend. To get help, stop in or call 574-235-9396. YSB also has a drop-in center that provides a safe place, case management, transportation, and food for young people between 14 and 24 years old. To get help, stop by 1330 Lincoln Way East in South Bend. They are open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2-6pm, and Saturdays from 12-6pm. For more information, visit www.ysbsjc.org or call 574-235-9231.

OTHER

2-1-1 Indiana
2-1-1 connects people with community resources and volunteer opportunities. By dialing 2-1-1 in most communities, you can be connected to housing, food, clothing, physical and mental health, employment support, support for persons with disabilities, and other services in your area. You can also call 866-211-9966. For more information, visit https://in211.communityos.org.
Crisis Center, Inc.
The Crisis Center provides a free crisis, listening, information, and referral service. To get help, call 800-519-0469. For more information, visit www.crisiscenterysb.org/crisis-contact-hotline.

Indiana Youth Group – Indianapolis
Indiana Youth Group (IYG) provides safe spaces for young people between 12 and 20 years old who identify as LGBTQ+, as well as their allies. They promote a space of acceptance, equity, and restorative practices. IYG strives to foster community and provide programming that empowers LGBTQ+ youth and magnifies their voices. They also advocate for LGBTQ+ youth in schools, the community, and through family support services. They are located at 3733 North Meridian Street in Indianapolis. For more information, visit www.indianayouthgroup.org or call 317-541-8726.

Indiana Youth Services
Indiana Youth Services assists youth in increasing basic skills, attaining a degree and/or industry recognized certificate, and/or placement into employment, college, or trade school. For more information, visit www.in.gov/dwd/youthservices.

The LGBTQ Group – South Bend
The LGBTQ Group has a young adult group that meets the 2nd Thursday of every month from 6:30-8:30pm. The group is for young adults between 18 and 30 years old. Young adults are able to meet peers of their age group and take part in various discussions, activities, and occasional outings. The Center is located at 1522 East Mishawaka Avenue in South Bend. For more information, visit https://www.thelgbtqcenter.org/groups.

Monroe County Youth Council – Bloomington
The Monroe County Youth Council is a youth-led organization for Monroe County high school teens to learn what it takes to make a difference in their community. Members learn, practice, and share leadership skills through service, learning, and social opportunities. For more information, visit www.monroecountyouthcouncil.org.

Outreach Indiana – Indianapolis
Outreach Indiana provides a drop-in center where young people can take showers, do laundry, eat, get clothing and hygiene products, use computers, and build positive relationships. They are located at 2416 East
New York Street in Indianapolis. To get help, stop by the drop-in center any Tuesday or Friday between 10-11:30am. If you have never been to the drop-in center before, you should arrive at 9am any Tuesday or Friday for an intake meeting. Outreach Indiana also provides case management, community dinners, and Friday Fun Days. For more information, visit https://www.outreachindiana.org/youth-support.

**Tri-State Alliance Youth Group – Evansville**
The Tri-State Alliance Youth Group provides community and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and gender fluid youth under 21 years old, and their straight-supporting friends and allies in Southwestern Indiana, Northwestern Kentucky, and Southern Illinois. The group meets every Saturday night at 7pm at the Tri-State Alliance Office at 501 John Street, Suite 5 in Evansville. They provide a safe place for youth to socialize, talk about issues of concern, and receive educational programming. For more information, visit www.tsagl.org/youth-group.html.

**WorkOne Indiana**
WorkOne assists Indiana youth between the ages of 16 and 24 to fulfill their educational goals and explore various careers by providing educational support, leadership development, and job training. They have offices in Anderson, Noblesville, Franklin, Greenfield, Lebanon, Plainfield, and Shelbyville. You can find the contact information for each office online at www.workonecentral.org/offices.html. To get help, contact your local WorkOne office and ask for a youth staff member. For more information, visit www.workonecentral.org/youth.html.
13. **Ind. Code Ann. § 31-39-8-3(c) (2019).**
15. **Ind. Code Ann. § 31-39-8-3(d) (2019).**
19. **Ind. Code Ann. §§ 31-37-6-6, 31-30-3-6 (2019).**
22. **Ind. Code Ann. § 31-37-4-3 (2019) (Officers will notify your school that you have been taken into custody and why you were taken into custody.).**
23. **Ind. Code Ann. § 31-39-2-13.8(a), (b) (2019) (The school’s “request must establish that the juvenile court records...are necessary for the school to (1) serve the educational needs of the child whose records are being released; or (2) protect the safety or health of a student, an employee, or a volunteer at the school.”).**
25. **Ind. Code Ann. § 20-33-8-18(a), (b)(1), (b)(2) (2019).**
27. **Ind. Code Ann. § 20-33-8-19(b) (2019).**
29. **Ind. Code Ann. § 20-33-8-16(d) (2019).**
30. **Ind. Code Ann. § 20-33-8-16(e) (2019).**
32. **Ind. Code Ann. § 31-32-2-6 (2019).**


38 See generally 32 C.F.R. § 66.6 (2016) (listing the military’s basic enlistment rules).


40 See 32 C.F.R. § 66.3 (2016); Dep’t of the Army, Reg. 601-210, Regular Army & Reserve Components Enlistment Program 14 (Aug. 31, 2016) (providing examples of how the military views sealed or expunged cases).


52 Ind. Code Ann. § 31-40-2-1.7(e) (2019).


54 Ind. Code Ann. §§ 11-8-8-7(b), 11-8-8-8(a) (2019).

55 Ind. Code Ann. § 11-8-8-11(a), (c) (2019).

56 Ind. Code Ann. §§ 11-8-8-7 (i), 36-2-13-5.5(b) (2019).


59 Ind. Code Ann. § 11-8-8-17 (2019).


63 Ind. Code Ann. §§ 3-7-13-1, 3-7-13-6, 31-32-2-6(b) (2019).


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About National Juvenile Defender Center

The National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to promoting justice for all children by ensuring excellence in juvenile defense. Through community building, training, and policy reform, we provide national leadership on juvenile defense issues with a focus on curbing the deprivation of young people’s rights in the court system. Our reach extends to urban, suburban, rural, and tribal areas, where we elevate the voices of youth, families, and defenders to create positive case outcomes and meaningful opportunities for children. We also work with broad coalitions to ensure that the reform of juvenile courts includes the protection of children’s rights — particularly the right to counsel. To learn more about NJDC, please visit www.njdc.info.

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