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Have a
JUVENILE
RECORD?



PLAN FOR
YOUR
FUTURE!

MARYLAND



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.

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Introduction

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

The court and police paperwork about your case are 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 challenges caused by a juvenile record and knowing what to do and where to get help.

The road forward might be met with challenges — but we hope this guide will show you that progress can be made and there is a community of advocates in Maryland 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 you go to court and the juvenile court judge decides 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, who may have been from the public defender's office or appointed by the judge. This person's job is to be sure the court hears your perspective in your juvenile case. Your lawyer may also be able to help you after your case is over.

Delinquent Act: If you are under 18 and you're accused of breaking the law, you are accused of a delinquent act, not a crime — as long as your case is in juvenile court.

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, it means that the records will be either destroyed or put in a different location from all other juvenile records, and removed from any computer databases.²

Juvenile Record: Your juvenile record includes the court and police paperwork related to your juvenile case.

Sealing: If your juvenile record is sealed, it means that the records will be closed and no one can look at them without a special court order.³

Making the Most of This Guide

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

Every young person’s situation is different. Depending on the offense 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 Maryland 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 charged with serious crimes, they are charged as an adult even though they are under 18 years old. Here, we will only focus on juvenile 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. You can 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.

How Should I Talk About My 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 conviction in Maryland.⁴

Maryland juvenile records are confidential,⁵ so it is rare that you will need to tell people about your juvenile record. But, if you do, be careful and follow these tips:

- **Talk with the lawyer who represented you in your juvenile case or a lawyer from your local public defender office** about your juvenile record and how you should answer questions. A lawyer can provide you with specific advice.
- **Make sure the interviewer knows that under Maryland law a juvenile adjudication is not the same as a criminal conviction.**
- **Be brief and don't give too many details.**
 - For example, "I have a juvenile adjudication for a misdemeanor from 2015."
 - If you are asked for more information about your specific adjudication, a lawyer can help you figure out what exactly you should say.

A juvenile adjudication
is not a conviction.

- **Avoid blaming others.** It seems as if we do not take responsibility for our own actions when we blame others. If we do not take responsibility, then others may think we have not learned from our past mistakes.
- **Talk about how you have learned from your past.** “I made a youthful mistake, but I’ve changed. I’m more mature now, and I have stayed out of trouble since.”
- **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 _____.
 - 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 school program.

Maryland Collateral Consequences Summary Chart



MY JUVENILE RECORD

Page 10

1. Who can look at my juvenile record?	Your juvenile record is confidential (not available for people to see). But a small group of people can still find out about it.
2. Can my juvenile record be used against me in later juvenile or adult criminal cases?	Maybe. Having a juvenile record can sometimes lead to more serious charges or other consequences in a later case.
3. How can I keep people from looking at my juvenile record?	You can apply to get your juvenile court record sealed, which means that fewer people can find out about it.
4. Can I get my juvenile record expunged?	Maybe. Some court and police records can be deleted.



SCHOOL

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

Maybe. Your juvenile record can be shared with your school, which may affect whether you can continue to attend the same school.

6. Can I get accepted into a college, technical, or trade school if I have a juvenile record?

Yes, but you may need to say that you have a juvenile record on some applications, which could affect the school's decision to accept you.

7. Can I get a student loan to help pay for college, technical, or trade school?

Your juvenile record should not impact your ability to get federal college loans to help pay for school.



JOBS AND THE MILITARY

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

Yes, but you might need to say that you have a juvenile record on some job applications.

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

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

Maryland Collateral Consequences Summary Chart (Continued)



IMMIGRATION

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10. Will my juvenile record affect my immigration status?

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



PUBLIC BENEFITS AND HOUSING

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11. Can I get public benefits (like SNAP, 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 things like food stamps (SNAP), Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

12. Can I live in public housing or get a housing voucher if I have a juvenile record?

Maybe. Depending on the type and location of offense, a juvenile record may limit your public housing options.

OTHER CONSEQUENCES

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13. What happens if I don't pay court 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.

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

Maybe. The judge may require you to register as a juvenile sex offender, which is a confidential list — not shared with the public. When you turn 18, the prosecutor could ask that you be put on the adult sex offender registry, which is available to the public.

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

Maybe. Your driver's license may be suspended or even taken away if you have a juvenile record for something related to driving. Your juvenile record should not impact your ability to get or keep your state ID.

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

Yes. Your juvenile record does not impact your right to vote.

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

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

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

Maybe. You may not be allowed to own or carry a gun until you turn 30 if you were adjudicated of certain offenses.

Collateral Consequences in Maryland

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?

Court and police records about your juvenile case are confidential.⁶ This means that juvenile records are not available to the public. People can't find information about your juvenile record the same way they can easily find information about an adult record. But, there are some people who can see your record, like the police, prosecutors, Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) case managers, judges, and juvenile court employees. Your lawyer and other juvenile defense lawyers can also look at your record. The judge can share your juvenile record with someone else, but only if the judge decides there is a good reason to share it with that person.⁷

Sometimes your juvenile record can be shared with your school even if you were only arrested; for example, if you are suspected of being in a gang. Your school is supposed to destroy this information when you turn 22 or when you graduate from high school.⁸ Go to Question 5 for more information on how your juvenile record might affect your ability to attend your local school.

Your record could also be shared with the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) if you were adjudicated delinquent of certain offenses. The MVA is not allowed to share your juvenile record with car insurance companies or any person other than you, your parent, your lawyer, the judge, the prosecutor, or the police. Go to Question 15 for more information about how your juvenile record might impact your driver's license.

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

Maybe. If you're charged with another juvenile offense, the judge can look at your juvenile record when deciding if you have to stay in detention until your trial or if you can go home.⁹ The judge could also look at your record if deciding whether to waive your case to adult court or when deciding about a disposition in that case.

If you are charged with a crime as an adult, the criminal court judge can use your juvenile record to decide whether you get bail (a money payment that allows you to go home before your trial) if your juvenile adjudication happened in the previous three years.¹⁰ And, if you're under 23 and convicted of committing a crime as an adult, the adult court judge can look at your juvenile record for sentencing.¹¹

Except in these specific situations, your juvenile record can't be used against you in court.¹²

3. How can I keep people from looking at my juvenile record?

You may be able to get your juvenile court record sealed, which means that very few people (not even prosecutors) will be allowed to look at your record without a special court order.¹³ Only the court records are sealed — not the police arrest records. But police records are confidential and not available to the public.¹⁴

There are two ways to get your juvenile record sealed:

1. If you're 21 or older, you can file a request with the juvenile court where your case was heard. The law requires the judge to grant your request to seal your record if you're 21 or older. That's it — you don't have to prove anything else.¹⁵
2. If you're under 21, you can ask the juvenile court to seal your record, but you have to show the judge that you have a good reason.¹⁶ A good reason could be that you are applying to college or for a job, and sealing your juvenile record may keep you from having to report it on applications. Another good reason is that you don't want your



Juvenile records are *confidential* in Maryland.

juvenile record to make it harder for you to get an occupational license. You can also tell the judge 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.

After your juvenile record is sealed, it can later be “unsealed” if a person convinces the judge that they have a good reason to look at it.¹⁷ The court should notify you if someone asks to unseal your record. When a juvenile record is unsealed, it will still be confidential — meaning it is not available to the public.

For help with sealing your juvenile record, contact the lawyer who represented you in juvenile court or go to the Resources section at the end of this guide where you will find contact information for the Maryland Office of the Public Defender in your county.

4. Can I get my juvenile record expunged?

Court and police records may be eligible for expungement, which means that the records will be either destroyed or set aside from all other records and removed from any computer databases.¹⁸ Once your record is expunged, you do not need to tell an employer or college, technical, or trade school about your record in interviews or on applications.¹⁹ Also, you do not need to talk about your expunged record on Maryland state applications for a license, permit, registration, or state employment.²⁰

To have your juvenile record expunged, all of the following must be true:

- You are age 18 or older;
- At least two years have passed since anything happened in your case;
- You have not been adjudicated or found guilty of any other offense;
- You do not have any open juvenile or adult cases;
- You were not required to register as a sex offender;
- You have fully paid any restitution — or, money the judge orders you to pay back for damage caused or property taken; and,
- Your juvenile adjudication was not a felony, a “crime of violence,” a fourth degree sex offense, or a “crime of violence” involving the use of a gun.²¹

If all of the above are true, you can submit a request to the court to expunge your record. But it is still up to the judge whether to grant your request.²² You should talk to a lawyer to make sure you are eligible and to help prepare you to make the best arguments as to why the judge should expunge your record.

If you were charged as an adult but your case was sent down (transferred) to juvenile court, the adult charge may still show up on a criminal background check. However, you can get the charge expunged by filing a request with the adult criminal court. The judge is required to grant your request and expunge the charge.²³ Once expunged, the adult charge should no longer show up on a criminal background check.

You may have to pay a \$30 fee to file your request to expunge your record with the court. You do not need to pay the filing fee if you won your case at trial (like a “not guilty” finding).²⁴ If you cannot afford to pay the fee,

you can ask the court to waive (not make you pay) the filing fee by completing the Request for Waiver of Pre-paid Costs Form: www.mdcourts.gov/courtforms/joint/ccdc089.pdf.²⁵

You should always keep a copy of the expungement order in case you need it in the future.

For help with 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 where you will find contact information for the Maryland Office of the Public Defender in your county. You can also find more information about sealing or expunging your juvenile record on the Clean Slate Clearinghouse website: www.cleanslateclearinghouse.org/states/maryland/juvenile-record-overview/.



SCHOOL

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

Maybe. Police are required to tell your school if you were arrested for certain charges like assault, robbery, or carjacking. Your school can use this information to change your classes, limit the school-related activities you can attend, or suspend or expel you from school.²⁶

If you were arrested for a sex offense (even if the judge did not find that you broke the law), your school is allowed to stop you from attending school or riding the bus if the person who accused you attends your school or rides your bus.²⁷ Go to Question 14 in this section for more information on how a sex offense adjudication can affect your life.

You can challenge your school's decision to suspend or expel you. A lawyer can help you challenge the school's decision and understand the process. For suspensions that are 10 school days or less, each school



“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.”

district has different rules. However, you can meet with the school principal or other administrators and explain your side. For expulsions or suspensions longer than 10 school days, you and a lawyer can meet with officials from the Office of the Superintendent for your school district.²⁸ If the superintendent decides you should be suspended or expelled, you can ask a higher official to take another look at your case.²⁹

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.

For help, go to the Resources section at the end of this guide, which includes resources created by Disability Rights Maryland and the Maryland Office of the Public Defender, as well as contact information for both organizations.

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

6. Can I get accepted into a college, technical, or trade school 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 been convicted, you can answer “No,” if you only have a juvenile record and no adult record. If the application asks about adjudications, you may need to include information about your juvenile record. Go to page 4 for tips on how to talk about your juvenile record.

The Common Application (Common App) for college, which is used by more than 600 colleges and universities, asks:

Have you ever been adjudicated guilty or convicted of a misdemeanor or felony? Note that you are not required to answer “yes” to this question, or provide an explanation, if the criminal adjudication or conviction has been expunged, sealed, annulled, pardoned, destroyed, erased, impounded, or otherwise required by law or ordered by a court to be kept confidential.

The guidelines for the Common App say that being “adjudicated guilty” is the same thing as being adjudicated delinquent.³⁰ Because Maryland juvenile records are confidential,³¹ you can answer “No” to this question if you only have a juvenile record in Maryland, you don’t have an adult record, and you don’t have a juvenile record in another state.³²

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 or sealed juvenile record.

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

7. Can I get a student loan to help pay for college, technical, or trade school?

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.³³ 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

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

Yes. Employers should not be able to find out information about your juvenile record because the records are confidential.³⁴ Most employers don't ask about juvenile records. If an application asks whether you've been convicted of a crime, you can answer "No" as long as you only have a juvenile record.

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, and nurses must have occupational licenses. The application for an occupational license might ask about your juvenile record.³⁵

Please remember to read the questions on the application carefully so that you answer only what is asked. Go to page 4 for tips on how to talk about your juvenile record.

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

Your juvenile record might make it harder for you to join the military. Generally, the United States military does not treat juvenile records differently than adult records. If your record involves selling drugs, sex offenses, domestic violence, or a felony, you may need to request special permission (a waiver) to enlist.³⁶ 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 or sealed.³⁷ Before you request to have your juvenile record sealed or expunged, make sure to get a copy of your complete court record because the court will not have copies of expunged records and cannot give you sealed records without a court order. Go to Question 3 for information about sealing and Question 4 for information about expunging your juvenile record.



“ If an application asks whether you’ve been convicted of a crime, you can answer “No” as long as you only have a juvenile record.”



10. Will my juvenile record affect my immigration status?

Talk to an immigration lawyer to find out whether your juvenile record affects your ability to stay in the United States or become a legal resident. If you're adjudicated for certain types of offenses, it will be more difficult to get legal immigration status.³⁸

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 with anyone else.

If you're undocumented or don't have legal status, even just being arrested 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.

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.

For help with immigration issues, go to the Resources section at the end of this guide for contact information for Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services, and University of Maryland Immigration Clinic. You can also find more information in the Immigrant Legal Resource Center's Guide for Immigrant Youth: www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/documents/youth_handbook-2015-06_05-en.pdf.³⁹



“ 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. ”



11. Can I get public benefits (like SNAP, Medicaid, and SSI) with a juvenile record? What happens to my benefits if I'm locked up?

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.”⁴⁰

Getting locked up in a juvenile facility might affect things like food stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or 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 juvenile facility, ask your DJS case manager or your lawyer to make sure you get re-enrolled 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 Maryland Legal Aid office in your area.

12. Can I live in public housing or get a housing voucher if I have a juvenile record?

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 go to court.⁴¹ In some situations, you may not be allowed to live in public housing at all; for example, if you have to register as a sex offender for life or if you are convicted of making meth while on public housing property.⁴²

While criminal background checks do not generally reveal juvenile records, there is no law that stops the housing authorities from asking

whether you were ever arrested, put on probation, or adjudicated in juvenile court – all of which may be related to your juvenile record. For example, Baltimore City asks about certain convictions, sex offender registration, probation, and home monitoring;⁴³ Anne Arundel County requires all adults in public housing to pass a criminal background check;⁴⁴ and Carroll County asks about arrests and convictions for drug-related charges.⁴⁵

It is important to remember that juvenile adjudications are not convictions⁴⁶ and you do not need to mention your juvenile record when asked about convictions. However, if the question asks about arrests, you may need to answer “Yes.” Go to page 4 for tips on how to talk about your juvenile record.

For help with housing issues, go to the Resources section at the end of this guide for contact information for the Maryland Legal Aid office in your area.





OTHER CONSEQUENCES

▶ 13. What happens if I don't pay the court fees or restitution?

The juvenile court judge may require you to pay court fees⁴⁷ or restitution (an order to pay someone back for damage caused or property taken).⁴⁸

If you don't pay court ordered fees or restitution, money can be taken out of your paycheck or tax return. And since Maryland charges interest on court fees and restitution, the amount you owe will go up the longer you don't pay. Unpaid fees or restitution can 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.

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

The juvenile court judge may require you to register as a sex offender, which means that your name and address are added to a list (the juvenile sex offender registry) that only the police can see. The juvenile sex offender registry is not available online for the public to search. If you are on the juvenile registry, you will most likely have to check in with DJS every three months to update your information. When you turn 21, your name is automatically removed from the juvenile registry.⁴⁹ You can also ask the judge to remove your name before you turn 21.⁵⁰

It's rare, but there is a chance you can be added to the public sex offender registry for adults, even for something that happened when you were under 18. You can only be added to the public sex offender registry after you turn 18 if the prosecutor or DJS case manager successfully argues to the judge that you are a "risk" to the community.⁵¹ If the prosecutor or case manager tries to add you to the adult public sex offender registry,

immediately contact the Maryland Office of the Public Defender, which is listed in the Resources section at the end of the guide.

If you have a sex offense on your record and you want to move or stay more than a few nights in another state (including DC), contact a lawyer first to make sure your plans will not negatively affect you.

▶ **15. Can I get or keep my driver's license or state ID if I have a juvenile record?**

Certain charges can lead to an automatic suspension of your driver's license for six months to two years.⁵² These include drunk driving,⁵³ driving a recreational vehicle on the highway,⁵⁴ failing to stop your car when the police tell you to stop,⁵⁵ or hit and run.⁵⁶

There are also a few non-driving offenses for which the judge can suspend your license, like lying about your age to buy alcohol.⁵⁷ The judge can suspend your license for anywhere from 30 days to until your 21st birthday.⁵⁸

“ If you have a sex offense on your record and you want to move or stay more than a few nights in another state (including DC), contact a lawyer first to make sure your plans will not negatively affect you.”



Your license can be suspended even if you do not yet have a license. If you're under 16 years old, the suspension will start on your 16th birthday.⁵⁹ And if your provisional driver's license is suspended, you will have to start at the beginning of the 18-month provisional license period once the suspension is over.⁶⁰

Your juvenile record will not impact your ability to get or keep your state ID. If you were placed in a juvenile facility, your DJS case manager should have a copy of your birth certificate and Social Security card. When you're released, ask your case manager to take you to the MVA to get an ID. An ID is required for employment, housing, medical assistance, and many other important opportunities and resources.

If your license is suspended, you may be allowed to get a permit to drive to work, school, or an alcohol education or treatment program.⁶¹ To get your suspension lifted, you will have to ask for a hearing with the MVA.

For more information, go to the Resources section for a resource from the MVA and contact information for the Maryland Office of the Public Defender in your county. You can also contact the lawyer who represented you in juvenile court.

► **16. Can I vote if I only have a juvenile record?**

Yes. Your juvenile record will not impact your right to vote.⁶²

► **17. 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.⁶³

► **18. Can I own or carry a gun if I have a juvenile record?**

The law on carrying and owning guns is complicated, so if you're thinking of purchasing a gun, make sure you do more research.⁶⁴ For instance, if you have a juvenile record for a "violent" charge, such as robbery, carjacking, or first or second degree assault, then you are not allowed to possess a gun until you are 30 years old.⁶⁵ If you need a permit to own or carry a gun for a job, you can contact the Maryland Office of the Public Defender for help. Their contact information is included in the Resources section of this guide.

Your juvenile record does not impact your right to vote!

Resources

Maryland Office of the Public Defender

<http://www.opd.state.md.us/>

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender (OPD) provides legal representation to low-income people facing charges in juvenile and adult courts.

OPD's Baltimore City Juvenile Division created client and family guides to help walk you and your parents or guardian through the juvenile court process:

Client guide: www.opd.state.md.us/opd/Portals/0/Downloads/OPDJCD_ClientGuide.pdf

Parent guide: www.opd.state.md.us/opd/Portals/0/Downloads/OPDJCD_ParentGuide.pdf

OPD School Suspension and Expulsion Assistance in Baltimore City:
www.opd.state.md.us/opd/Districts/Dist1/JCDHome/QuickHelpforFamilies/SchoolSuspensions.aspx

The Juvenile Division of the Public Defender's Office in Baltimore City has a lawyer dedicated to helping youth with school disciplinary issues. You can call 443-263-8975 if you have questions about your suspensions or expulsion.

MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER PHONE NUMBERS BY COUNTY

Public Defender Offices	Phone Number
Allegany County	301-777-2142
Anne Arundel County	410-295-8800
Baltimore City	443-263-6360
Baltimore County	410-324-8900
Calvert County	443-550-6800
Caroline County	410-479-5756
Carroll County	410-871-3636

Cecil County	410-996-2850
Charles County	301-539-7330
Dorchester County	410-221-2570
Frederick County	301-600-1988
Garrett County	301-334-9196
Harford County	410-836-4874
Howard County	410-480-7777
Kent County	410-778-0809
Montgomery County	301-563-8900
Prince George's County	301-952-2159
Queen Anne's County	410-819-4022
Saint Mary's County	301-880-2830 x2840
Somerset County	410-651-3271
Talbot County	410-820-6100
Washington County	301-791-4735
Wicomico County	410-713-3400
Worcester County	410-632-1951 x300

Maryland Legal Aid

<http://www.mdlab.org/>

Maryland Legal Aid assists with civil legal issues like housing, employment, and public benefits.

Allegany and Garret Counties	301-777-7474
Anne Arundel	410-972-2700
Baltimore City	410-951-7777
Baltimore County	410-427-1800
Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties	301-932-6661
Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties	410-763-9676
Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties	301-694-7414
Cecil and Harford Counties	410-836-8202

Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties	410-546-5511
Howard County	410-480-1057
Montgomery County	240-314-0373
Prince George's County	301-560-2101

Maryland Legal Aid has a project called Lawyer in the Library, where you can access free civil legal help at your local library. Civil legal aid is for issues like bankruptcy, child custody and support, debt collection, government benefits, housing, landlord/tenant, and veterans benefits. You can find the dates, times, and locations of Lawyer in the Library on Legal Aid's website.

National Juvenile Defender Center

www.njdc.info

202-452-0010

Please 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.

Disability Rights Maryland

www.disabilityrightsmd.org

410-727-6352

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) provides free legal services to Marylanders of any age with all types of disabilities who live in facilities, live in the community, or who are homeless. DRM's handbook on challenging school discipline can be found here: www.disabilityrightsmd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/School-Discipline-Manual-May-2016-final.pdf.

Homeless Person's Representation Project

www.hprplaw.org

201 N. Charles St., Suite 1104, Baltimore, MD

410-685-6589 / 800-773-4340

The Homeless Person's Representation Project provides free legal services, including advice, counsel, education, representation, and advocacy for low-income persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The People's Law Library of Maryland

www.peoples-law.org

The People's Law Library of Maryland is a free online resource that provides helpful information about laws related to housing, education, child custody and support, and the juvenile court system.

Housing Section: www.peoples-law.org/cat/housing

Education Section: www.peoples-law.org/cat/education

Family Law Section: www.peoples-law.org/cat/family-law

Juvenile System Overview: www.peoples-law.org/juvenile-system-juvenile-courts

IMMIGRATION

Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services

www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/ILS

If you need help with an immigration legal matter, intake sessions are the first step. Their intake locations, hours, and consultation fees are listed on the above website. If you have been arrested, you must bring documents to show the disposition of the case. Please bring all documents related to your case. Walk-in clients are seen on a first come, first served basis.

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

<https://supportkind.org/>

Infobaltimore@supportkind.org

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) staff and pro bono attorney partners represent unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children in their deportation proceedings. KIND can only represent clients under the age of 18.

University of Maryland Immigration Clinic

www.law.umaryland.edu/programs/clinic/initiatives/immigration/icc/en.html

500 W Baltimore Street, Room 360, Baltimore, MD

The University of Maryland Immigration Clinic and the World Relief Baltimore Immigration Legal Clinic offer free legal consultations for individuals in removal proceedings before the Baltimore Immigration

Court. Consultations take place the first and third Friday of each month, and individuals should arrive between 9:00 and 9:30 am.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Covenant House Washington

www.covenanthousedc.org

202-610-9600

Covenant House Washington serves young people from Maryland, Virginia, and DC between 12 and 24 years old. They provide housing, food, showers, laundry, education, employment, and counseling services. They are located at 2001 Mississippi Ave SE in Washington, DC.

Loving Arms

www.lovingarmsinc.com

3313 Oakfield Avenue, Baltimore

443-682-7988 / 443-415-1174

Loving Arms provides food shelter, clothing, and counsel for youth between 14 and 18 years old.

Youth Empowered Society (YES)

www.yesdropincenter.org

2315 N. Charles St., 1st Floor, Baltimore

410-235-7744

YES Drop-In Center is a safe space in Baltimore City for youth who are homeless and between the ages of 14 and 25. At YES, staff will help you meet your basic needs, and you will meet peer staff and allies who can connect you to long-term resources and opportunities. The YES website has helpful information for young people experiencing homelessness. Their website provides a list of homeless shelters in the Baltimore area.

Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, and Thurs: 2-6 pm

Fri: By Appointment Only

Sat & Sun: Closed

OTHER RESOURCES

2-1-1 Maryland

www.211md.org

Need help finding affordable housing, food, employment training, utility payment assistance, services for children or aging parents, affordable healthcare, or other services? Call 2-1-1 or visit the website anytime, 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Baltimore Child and Adolescent Response System

www.catholiccharities-md.org/mental-health/crisis-response
410-752-2272 / 800-233-7201

The Baltimore Child and Adolescent Response System (B-CARS) provides crisis services to Baltimore City youth who are experiencing a psychiatric crisis. B-CARS hotline takes calls 24 hours a day.

Baltimore Mayor's Office of Employment Development — Youth Services

<http://moed.baltimorecity.gov/youth-services>

The Youth Services division operates Baltimore City's Youth Summer Jobs Programs, as well as job training opportunities through Youth Opportunity Baltimore and Youth Partner Programs.

Maryland Community Services Locator

www.mdcscl.org/search.html

The Maryland Community Services Locator can help you find health, social service, and criminal justice resource programs in Maryland.

Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration

http://www.mva.maryland.gov/_resources/docs/RD-006.pdf

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration's website provides a guide for young drivers, including information on the consequences of driving, drinking, and drugs.

Maryland Youth Workforce Programs and Services

www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/youth.shtml

The Youth Employment Program provides tools for Maryland youth between the ages of 16 and 24 to fulfill their educational goals and explore the world of work by providing educational support, leadership development, and work training.

Endnotes

- ¹ MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8A-23(a)(1) (West 2013).
- ² MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8A-27(a)(3) (West 2013); MD. CODE ANN., CRIM. PROC. § 10-101 (West 2007).
- ³ MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8A-27(c) (West 2013); MD. R. JUV. CAUSES 11-121 (West 1998).
- ⁴ MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8A-23(a)(1) (West 2013).
- ⁵ MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8A-27(a)(1)-(b)(1) (West 2013).
- ⁶ *Id.*
- ⁷ MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8A-27(b)(1) (West 2013); *Samie v. State*, 955 A.2d 794, 797-98 (Md. Ct. Spec. App. 2008).
- ⁸ MD. CODE ANN., EDUC. § 7-303(f)(3) (West 2014).
- ⁹ MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8A-23(b) (West 2013).
- ¹⁰ MD. R. 4-216.1(f)(2)(J) (West 2017).
- ¹¹ Judges use the “sentencing guidelines” to help decide how much time to give someone in adult court. The sentencing guidelines manual explains how a juvenile record can lead to getting a harsher sentence in adult court. *See* MD. STATE COMM’N ON SENT’G POL’Y, MARYLAND SENTENCING GUIDELINES MANUAL 23 (2016), www.msccsp.org/Files/Guidelines/MSGM/guidelinesmanual.pdf.
- ¹² MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8A-23(b)-(c) (West 2013).
- ¹³ MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8A-27(c) (West 2013); MD. R. JUV. CAUSES 11-121 (West 1998).
- ¹⁴ MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8A-27(a) (West 2013).
- ¹⁵ MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8A-27(c) (West 2013).
- ¹⁶ *Id.*
- ¹⁷ *Id.*
- ¹⁸ MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8A-27(a)(3) (West 2013); MD. CODE ANN., CRIM. PROC. § 10-101 (West 2007).
- ¹⁹ MD. CODE ANN., CRIM. PROC. § 10-109(a)(1)(i) (West 2001).
- ²⁰ MD. CODE ANN., CRIM. PROC. § 10-109(a)(1)(ii) (West 2001).
- ²¹ MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8A-27.1(c) (West 2014). Crimes of violence include: abduction, first degree arson, kidnapping, manslaughter, mayhem, maiming, murder, rape, robbery, carjacking, armed carjacking, first and second degree sex offense, use of handgun in the commission of a felony or other crime of violence, first degree child abuse, sex abuse of a minor (with some specifics), first degree assault, assault with intent to murder, rape, rob, or with intent to commit first or second degree sex offense. *See* MD. CODE ANN., CRIM. LAW, § 14-101 (West 2017).
- ²² MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8A-27.1(d) (West 2014) (The court shall consider the best interests of the person, the person’s stability in the community, and the safety of the public in its consideration of the petition for expungement.).

- ²³ MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 10-106 (West 2015).
- ²⁴ The Maryland fee schedule lists the fees that you might have to pay when you file something with the court, like an expungement petition. *See* MD. CTS., REVISED SCHEDULE OF CHARGES, COSTS, AND FEES TO BE CHARGED BY THE CLERKS OF THE CIRCUIT COURTS UNDER ARTICLE, § 7-202 (2016), <http://www.mdcourts.gov/circuit/feeschedule.pdf>.
- ²⁵ MD. CTS., REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF PREPAID COSTS (2017), www.mdcourts.gov/courtforms/joint/ccdc089.pdf.
- ²⁶ MD. CODE ANN., EDUC. § 7-303 (West 2014).
- ²⁷ MD. CODE ANN., EDUC. § 7-303(g)(1) (West 2014).
- ²⁸ *See* MD. CODE REGS. 13A.08.01.11(C) (2014).
- ²⁹ *Id.*
- ³⁰ *What is "Adjudicated Delinquent?"*, THE COMMON APPLICATION: APPLICANT SOLUTIONS CTR., <https://appsupport.commonapp.org/link/portal/33011/33013/Article/778/Adjudicated-delinquency> (last visited Dec. 1, 2017).
- ³¹ *See* MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8-27(a), (b) (West 2013).
- ³² Email from John Vassiliades, Partner, Gordon & Rees, to Joseph Kavanagh, Maryland Reentry Fellow, Nat'l Juv. Def. Ctr. (Dec. 9, 2016) (on file with NJDC) (despite the confusing wording in the question, Mr. Vassiliades confirmed that people with only Maryland juvenile adjudications can answer "no" to this question).
- ³³ *See* 20 U.S.C. § 1091(r) (West 2015); *Students with Criminal Convictions Have Limited Eligibility for Federal Student Aid*, FED. STUDENT AID, www.studentaid.ed.gov/node/55 (last visited Nov. 10, 2017).
- ³⁴ MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8-27(a), (b) (West 2013).
- ³⁵ MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8A-23(a)(1) (West 2013).
- ³⁶ *See generally* 32 C.F.R. § 66.6 (West 2016) (listing the military's basic enlistment rules).
- ³⁷ *See* 32 C.F.R. § 66.3 (West 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).
- ³⁸ 8 U.S.C. §§ 1227(a)(2) (West 2008), 1182(a)(2) (West 2013).
- ³⁹ IMMIGRANT LEGAL RES. CTR., LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES: A GUIDE FOR IMMIGRANT YOUTH (2015), www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/documents/youth_handbook-2015-06_05-en.pdf.
- ⁴⁰ MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8A-23(a)(1) (West 2013).
- ⁴¹ 24 C.F.R. § 966.4(l)(5)(i)(B), (l)(5)(iii) (West 2017).
- ⁴² 24 C.F.R. §§ 982.553(a)(1)(ii)(C)-(a)(2)(i) (West 2016), 960.204(a)(3)-(4) (West 2017).
- ⁴³ BALT. HOUS., APPLICATION FOR THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAM, <http://www.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/Housing%20Application.pdf>.
- ⁴⁴ *See* THE HOUS. COMM'N OF ANNE ARUNDEL CTY., PRE-APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND SENIOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, <https://annearundel.apply4housing.com/>.

- ⁴⁵ See CARROLL CTY. GOV'T, BUREAU OF HOUS. & CMTY. DEV., PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FOR SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE, www.ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/housing/docs/hcv-app.pdf?20140609.
- ⁴⁶ MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8A-23(a)(1) (West 2013).
- ⁴⁷ MD. CODE ANN., CRIM. PROC. § 3-8A-19(g) (West 2016).
- ⁴⁸ Restitution can be up to \$10,000 if the judge believes that you caused a lot of damage. See MD. CODE ANN., CRIM. PROC. § 11-604(b) (West 2005).
- ⁴⁹ MD. CODE ANN., CRIM. PROC. § 11-704.1(d) (West 2011).
- ⁵⁰ *Id.*
- ⁵¹ MD. CODE ANN., CRIM. PROC. § 11-704(c) (West 2011).
- ⁵² MD. CODE ANN., TRANSP. § 16-206(b)-(c) (West 2013); MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8A-23(a)(4)-(5) (West 2013).
- ⁵³ MD. CODE ANN., TRANSP. § 21-902 (West 2014). See also *Maryland's Graduated Licensing System: What Young Drivers Need to Know About Driving, Drinking, and Drugs*, Md. Gov, www.mva.maryland.gov/se/util/display_mod.cfm?MODULE=/se-server/mod/modules/semod_printpage/mod_default.cfm&PageURL=/zzzz/RookieDriver/youngdriver.htm&VersionObject=3522&Template=39058&PageStyleSheet=43125.
- ⁵⁴ MD. CODE ANN., TRANSP. § 11-140.1 (West 2010) (defining a recreational video).
- ⁵⁵ MD. CODE ANN., TRANSP. § 21-904 (West 2017).
- ⁵⁶ MD. CODE ANN., TRANSP. §§ 20-102 (West 2005), 20-103 (West 1987).
- ⁵⁷ MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 3-8A-19(e)(1) (West 2016).
- ⁵⁸ *Id.*
- ⁵⁹ MD. CODE ANN., TRANSP. § 16-206(b)(3) (West 2013).
- ⁶⁰ MD. CODE ANN., TRANSP. § 16-111(d)(1)(iii) (West 2012).
- ⁶¹ MD. CODE ANN., TRANSP. § 16-206(c)(5) (West 2013).
- ⁶² MD. CODE ANN., ELEC. LAW § 3-102(b) (West 2016).
- ⁶³ MD. CODE ANN., CTS. & JUD. PROC. § 8-103(b) (West 2006).
- ⁶⁴ MD. CODE ANN., PUB. SAFETY § 5-133(d) (West 2015).
- ⁶⁵ MD. CODE ANN., PUB. SAFETY § 5-134(b)(11) (West 2015).

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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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