

SEALING VS. EXPUNGEMENT: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Provided by the office of the Clerk of Courts*

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Although the procedure is similar, there are several major differences between Sealing and Expungements. Please conduct your own research to determine which is right for you. The Clerk of Court's office is not able to assist you with this decision.

Sealing:

-The fee for a Motion to Seal a Conviction is \$50.00, and for a Motion to Seal a Dismissal or Not Guilty Finding there is no fee.

-Felony cases closed by Indictment cannot be sealed in our court. The Motion to Seal must be filed in Common Pleas Court.

Expungement:

-The filing fee for a Motion to Expunge a Conviction is \$100.00.

-There is no filing fee for Dismissals and Not Guilty Findings.

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If the case is a conviction, the petitioner must wait for ONE YEAR from the last action on the case before they can file the Motion to Seal/Expunge. Dismissals or Not Guilty findings can have Motions to Seal/Expunge filed at any time. Once the Motions for either of these are filed, they will be sent to the Prosecutor. The Judge's office will set a hearing date for the Motion which the petitioner will be required to attend.

*DISCLAIMER: This Clerk of Courts office is not responsible for dispensing legal advice and this information should only serve as a tool to help you understand the differences between Sealing and Expungement. This Clerk of Courts office also cannot instruct you on which of these options are the best for your situation. We can only provide you with the motion paperwork. It is the responsibility of the party filing the motion to research and determine whether they qualify or not based on the Ohio Revised Code.