

**THINK
ABOUT IT
FIRST**

MA

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING COPS & KIDS®



REMEMBER:

- If you are 12 to 18 years old, you go to Juvenile Court.
- Once you turn 18, you go to Criminal Court.

THE IMPACT OF A COURT RECORD COULD INCLUDE:

- Your family getting evicted or losing public housing.
- Being suspended or expelled from school.
- Getting rejected by the military.
- Not getting or delaying when you get a driver's license.
- Getting rejected for a job at a daycare or summer camp.
- Getting rejected for a job with the federal government.
- Putting your immigration status at risk.

IF YOU HAVE A RECORD:

- If you are found delinquent, you are at most “adjudicated” so **don’t say** you’ve been “convicted” on job application forms.

TO SEAL/EXPUNGE YOUR RECORD:

- Your record is **never** automatically sealed.
- You must submit a form to ask the court to seal (hide) your record.
- In some cases, you may be able to **expunge** (permanently erase) your record.
- The form to seal (hide) your record is available at:
<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/request-to-seal-your-criminal-record>

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- If you have a lawyer, call your lawyer.
- You can also visit
<https://www.gbls.org/self-help/cori>

www.strategiesforyouth.org