

**THINK  
ABOUT IT  
FIRST**

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**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 can 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>

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The information on this card is not intended to be legal advice nor is it intended to create an attorney-client relationship. While the information on the card was accurate to the best of our knowledge at the time of publication, there is a possibility that local laws have been updated, changed, and/or reinterpreted. Please consult an attorney if you have specific legal questions.



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