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EXPUNGEMENT SUMMIT TOOLKIT OUTLINE

Helping Counties to Bring Second Chance Opportunities

2014 JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE SYMPOSIUM

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EXPUNGEMENT SUMMIT TOOLKIT OUTLINE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This presentation provides a comprehensive, step-by-step outline for developing an Expungement Summit Toolkit, which may be used by counties throughout the United States to organize full service Expungement Summits for the purpose of assisting customers with criminal histories.

The proposed Expungement Summit Toolkit is modeled on the annual Full Service, Adult & Juvenile Expungement Summit, created and produced by the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois.

WHAT IS EXPUNGEMENT AND SEALING?

Expunge-when a record of criminal conviction is destroyed by the arresting agency. The clerk of the court removes name references from the electronic docket, however, retains the official court record, which can only be viewed pursuant to a court order.

Seal- the act or practice of officially preventing access to particular records, in the absences of a court order, except that the law allows police agencies and prosecutors certain access to sealed records. If a record is sealed, the party's name will be removed from the clerk's office electronic record.

For example, in Illinois, expunged records are physically destroyed by police departments, except for certain offenses that require a five-year waiting period (Note: In Cook County, the Clerk's Office does not destroy the official court record.)

Also, in Illinois, sealed records are not accessible to the public but can be viewed by law enforcement. More specifically, sealed felony convictions can be accessed by any employer authorized by law to conduct fingerprint-based checks through the Illinois State Police, i.e., schools, park districts, health care agencies, child service organizations, etc.

WHAT IS EXPUNGEMENT AND SEALING?

- In Illinois, it is a statutory remedy, which comes from the Criminal Identification Act (20 ILCS 2630/5.2).
- Requires an affirmative act, a court filing by a person to remove eligible records from public view.
 - Court records from the Clerk of the Circuit Court
 - Arrest records from the arresting agency
 - Arrest and Conviction from the Illinois State Police
 - Records from FBI background checks
- Provides protection from employment discrimination under the Illinois
 Human Rights Act. Allow individuals to not have to disclose prior existence
 of a criminal record.

WHY IS EXPUNGEMENT IMPORTANT TO COUNTIES?

- Offers "Second Chances" within confines of the law.
- Increases employment opportunities, thereby impacting the county's unemployment rate.
- It is a win-win situation when counties help ex-offenders become employable, self-supporting, stable citizens of communities.

ECONOMIC IMPACT TO COUNTIES

Collateral Consequences

There are collateral consequences of criminal arrests/conviction: civil disabilities imposed on the defendant, which produce barriers to long-term self-sufficiency.

These collateral consequences may be the inability to obtain:

- Welfare
- Student Loans
- Mortgage
- Voting Privileges
- Stable Employment

WHAT TO DO BEFORE PLANNING AN EXPUNGEMENT SUMMIT

☑ Review the Laws/Statutes of your State:

- If your State has comprehensive Expungement/Sealing Laws:
 - Understand how the laws work in order to determine the required functions of your Expungement Summit.
 - Identify the agencies that are involved in the Expungement/Sealing process(es) of your state.
 - These are the key stakeholders in the process and they should be the partners in producing an Expungement Summit. For example, in Cook County, Illinois, key stakeholders are: Cook County State's Attorney, Chicago Police Department, local arresting agencies, the Chief Legal Officer of Local Government and the judiciary.

WHAT TO DO BEFORE PLANNING AN EXPUNGEMENT SUMMIT

☑ Review the Laws/Statutes of your State:

- If your State has comprehensive Expungement/Sealing Laws (con't):
 - Determine all available resources for your county.
 - For example, An "Expungement & Sealing Procedural Guide" is available in Cook County, IL, as an important educational tool. The Guide is accessible via the Internet, at courthouse locations and public information forums.

CRIMINAL & TRAFFIC EXPUNGEMENT & SEALING



PROCEDURAL GUIDE

This packet also contains information on Executive Pardons;

Criminal Identity Theft; and on Certificates of Innocence, Certificates of Good Conduct, Certificates of Relief from Disabilities, Certificates of Eligibility for Sealing, and Certificates of Eligibility for

- 1. How much does it cost to file my petition?
- 2. What if I can't afford the filing fee?
 - Do I have to attach a copy of my rap sheet and certified copies of my dispositions to my petition?
- 4. Do I have to attach the results of a drug test to my petition?
- 5. Where do I file my petition?
- 6. What information do I need to bring with me to the courthouse to file my petition?
- 7. How many copies should I have of the notice of filing and expungement petition?
- 8. Can I expunge or seal an Order of Protection?
- Am I eligible for expungement or sealing if there was an order entered for supervision or conviction of reckless driving?
- 10. Can the Clerk's Office help me fill out my petition?
- 11. What is a conviction?
- 12. What is NOT a conviction?
- 13. Someone else was arrested using my identity. How can I clear my record?
- 14. What if I was charged as a juvenile?
- 15. If I wait long enough, isn't my record automatically expunged?
- 16. If I was found not guilty, do I still need to file a petition?
- 17. I was pressured into pleading guilty even though I was innocent. Does that qualify me for expungement?
- 18. My case could be expunged but the time period has not passed yet. If it is also eligible for sealing, can I seal it now and expunge it later?
- 19. I live out of town. Can I do this by mail?
- 20. How do the police agency that arrested me, the prosecutor who prosecuted me, and any other required parties find out that I filed my petition?
- 21. What happens if an objection to my petition is filed with the court?
- 22. Do I have to appear in court?
- 23. How long does it take?
- 24. What is the difference between expungement and sealing?
- 25. How do I find out if the judge has granted or denied my petition?
- 26. If the court orders my record expunged or sealed, do I have to take any action?
- 27. Once my petition is granted, should I get a certified copy of the court's order?
- 28. Once my record is expunged or sealed, do I have to tell employers about it?
- 29. Once my petition is granted, do I have to disclose my expunged or sealed record when I get an occupational license or certificate?
- 30. What if my petition is denied?
- 31. What is a pardon?

Revised Date 12.30.2013

AN EXPUNGEMENT SUMMIT

- If your state does not have Expungement/Sealing Laws, or its laws have limited provisions, then identify potential advocates within the community who may assist in the creation of new laws or the expansion of existing laws.
 - Potential people and entities to contact include:
 - ✓ State Representatives
 - ✓ State Senators
 - ✓ Lobbyists
 - ✓ Community-Based Organizations
- ✓ Church-Based Organizations
- ✓ Legal Service Providers
- Ex-offender Service Organizations
- Review Expungement/Sealing Laws from other jurisdictions to consider as models, such as:
 - Criminal Identification Act 20 ILCS 2630/5.2
 - Utah Expungement Act 77 Chapter 40 Sec. 101-113

WHAT TO DO BEFORE PLANNING AN EXPUNGEMENT SUMMIT

☑ Identify other available legal relief for Ex-Offenders that should be made available at the Expungement Summit.

For example:

- Petition for Certificate of Innocence
 735 Illinois Compiled Statutes 5/2-702
- Certificates of Good Conduct
 730 Illinois Compiled Statutes 5/5-5.5-25
- Certificate of Relief from Disabilities
 730 Illinois Compiled Statutes 5/5-5.5-15

WHAT TO DO BEFORE PLANNING AN EXPUNGEMENT SUMMIT

☑ Determine the state's Executive Clemency/Pardon Relief.

- A pardon is a type of executive clemency granted by the governor. It only applies
 to cases that have resulted in a conviction. The clemency process is administered by
 the Prisoner Review Board and is requested by means of a typewritten petition, with
 specific requirements.
- Consider having members of your state's Prisoner Review Board available at the Expungement Summit to meet with citizens who have criminal convictions that do not qualify for either expungement or sealing.

CREATE A PROJECT PLAN

Action items should include:

- ✓ Engage Key Stakeholders/Partners
- ✓ Select the Project Manager for Project Team
 - Make Project Team Assignments
 - Establish Meeting Schedule
- ✓ Identify Site and establish Site Visit Schedule
- ✓ Create a Site Plan
- ✓ Assess Technology Requirements
- ✓ Create a Budget
- ✓ Develop a Marketing and Community Engagement Plan

(more)

CREATE A PROJECT PLAN (CON'T)

Action items should include:

- ✓ Recruit Attorney volunteers
- ✓ Organize Training Sessions for Attorney volunteers
- ✓ Request approval from Chief Judge, re: official court day
- ✓ Solicit Event Sponsors
- ✓ Solicit Exhibitors
- ✓ Identify judicial volunteers
- ✓ Solicit businesses to organize an Ex-Offender Information Forum
- ✓ Expungement Summit Day Execution
- ✓ Debrief After Summit: "Perfecting the Summit"

PARTNERS/KEY STAKEHOLDERS- these are the entities that share in the vision and advocacy of the Summit. In most cases, these agencies are identified from the state's Expungement laws. Contact them via phone call, letters etc., to obtain buy-in. The partners should participate in planning meetings.

 Partners for the Expungement Summit produced by the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, include: Cook County State's Attorney, Cook County Public Defender, Illinois Attorney General, Illinois Prisoner Review Board, Illinois State Appellate Defender, Illinois State Police, Cook County Sheriff's Department, Chicago Police Department,

and local police departments.

PROJECT TEAM - First, designate a Project Manager who will organize a Project Team that consists of individuals representing the various pertinent components of the Expungement Summit. The Project Manager will establish a team meeting schedule and determine team assignments.



SITE SELECTION is critical to the success of an Expungement Summit. The facility should be large enough to accommodate the anticipated numbers of customers, volunteers and required services. When selecting a site, the logistical flow of the facility layout should allow for the logical flow of the expungement process. Also, the site should be accessible via public transportation and major highways.

General questions to ask:

- How much parking is available?
- Is there an auditorium? How many people may be accommodated?
- Is there a space for overflow seating?

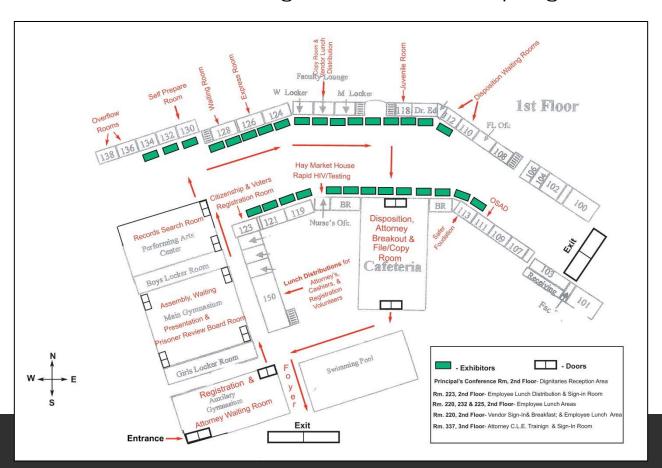


- SITE SELECTION (CON'T)
- Is there a large space for a disposition review room?
- Is there a large space for volunteer attorneys?
- Is the space large enough to showcase exhibitors and their services?
- Can the space accommodate the judiciary (mock courtrooms)?
- What type of technology is available (WiFi)?
- Are there any security concerns?



- Is the facility located near major highways?
- What public transportation is available?

☑ Create a Site Plan that details the logistical flow of the Expungement Summit.



TECHNOLOGYis not only important, but it is also a necessity that allows the Clerk's Office to replicate the Expungement/Sealing process at a site within the community. It is imperative to have a knowledgeable

Network/Hardware/Software Services
Specialist as part of the core team. The
Specialist should also have a Technology
Support Team. The Tech Team will be
responsible for handling issues related to:
network access, hard wiring versus wireless
connectivity, monitoring the main server, and
determining equipment needs. During the
Summit, the Tech Team oversees cash
registers and credit card acceptance
transactions, printers, copiers and computer
terminals used by staff and volunteer
attorneys to look-up criminal histories from the
Clerk's Office information system.

On the day of the Summit, technological equipment is used during the Opening Presentation, in the Criminal Disposition Look-Up Room, Attorney Review Room, Cashier Room, Juvenile Expungement Review Room, Prisoner Review Board area, at Information Kiosks, and in the State Appellate Defender Room.



PREPARATION OF A BUDGET

Line items to consider:

- ✓ Site Location-attempt to negotiate as gratis
- ✓ Food & Drinks-for employees and volunteers
- ✓ Rental of tables, chairs other equipment
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ 2-Way Radios
- ✓ Insurance
- ✓ Printing of market materials
- ✓ Miscellaneous Expenses

- MARKETING and COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT are extremely critical to the success of the Summit. If your customers are unaware of the opportunity, then why have the event? A Media Relations and Promotions Strategic Plan must be created and executed. The mission must be communicated prior to and up to the date of event. As a recommendation, once the site is selected, the marketing activities should commence with the creation and dissemination of a "Save the Date" flyer. Also, 3-4 months prior to the Summit, the detailed information flyer should be created and disseminated. Within the informational flyer, information should be included advising the target audience of what documentation is required the day of the Summit.
 - o Marketing activities may include: creating Expungement Summit web page, design information flyer/poster for dissemination, create public service announcements, target schools and youth organizations, solicit print and radio outlets to become media partners, reach out to elected officials and social service organizations.

MARKETING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SAMPLES OF MARKETING MATERIALS:



THE HONORABLE DOROTHY BROWN
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

EXPUNGEMENT
SUMINIT
SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2014
A FULL SERVICE EXPUNGEMENT SUMMIT:
ADULT & JUVENILE
APPLICATION, PREPARATION, FILING
Registration at 8:30 a.m. - doors close at 6 p.m.
LIVING WORD

CHRISTIAN CENTER

7600 ROOSEVELT RD. FOREST PARK, IL 60130

Bringing Expungement Services to the Community

Volunteer attorneys will be on site to help with expungement and sealing applications.

Information on employment, job training, health care and other services for ex-offenders will be available.

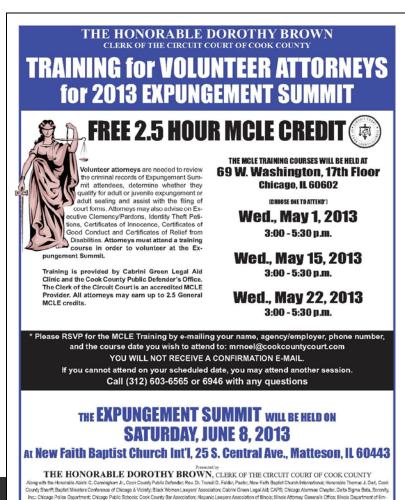
For additional information, call (312) 603-5200 or visit: www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org

Save The Date Event flyer.

Extensive Marketing/Promotion Plan Create an informative and detailed Expurgement Summit event flyer with Spanish and Polish versions. Conduct mass distribution to community groups, aldermanic offices, grocery stores, dermanic offices, grocery stores, d partnering agencies locations. Honorable Dorothy Brown Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County s) to be distributed to all 2014 Adult and Juvenile Expungement Summit Living Word Christian Center k's Office site ome page that leads to the 2014 suidelines to Expangement and Forest Park, II 60130 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. is that highlight the benefits of ote and distribute information, gement Summit. Post the Objective: Promote the 2014 Adult and Javenile Expongement Summit, generate media interest and attract a large-scale andience as well as increase public awareness of the Expungement Scaling services of the Clerk's Office. promotional partnerships with fouth Centers, Boys & Girls Club nt, NAACP, Urban League, Red 1. Develop an (electronic and hard copy) Expuneement Summit media packet to be used for delivering a nsistent message for media and community event appearances/prom Bean Soup, Collective Quest The kit will contain: Media release, re: the Clerk's Office annual Expangement Summit Explanation of the Expangement Scaling process Talking Points Fact Sheet(s) on how Expangement Scaling benefits individuals and urch amounces the Expungement isk, such as: Victory, New Christian by Spirit, Trinity, Apostolic Church fellowship MBC, Friendship MBC. iv. Event flyer/ list of Expungement Summit sponsors and co-sponsors. 2. Organize a marketing team comprised of the public relations professionals from all of the summit 3. Coordinate distribution of media packets to print, broadcast and Internet-based editors, producers reporters and writers, and pitch variety of angles covering Expungement/scaling. Focus on television morning shows, mainstream and community newspapers, webvines and all radio oxites. Encourage partnering agencies to promote the Expungement summit among their contacts and disseminated. ited Expungement Summit is & Views, International Sunday-nia Show, Global News Network, nformation through email database 4. Develop an Expungement Summit Public Service Announcement (PSA) video to stream on Clerk's melates 5. Promotional Materials a. Design an Expangement Summit Save-the-Date flyer poster highlighting the date and location and brief synepsis of the services to be offered. Display the flyers throughout the Clerk's Office and distribute electronically to partnering agencies, community groups, legal offices, elected officials, etc. Post on Facebook and Twitter, websites and other key fan page.

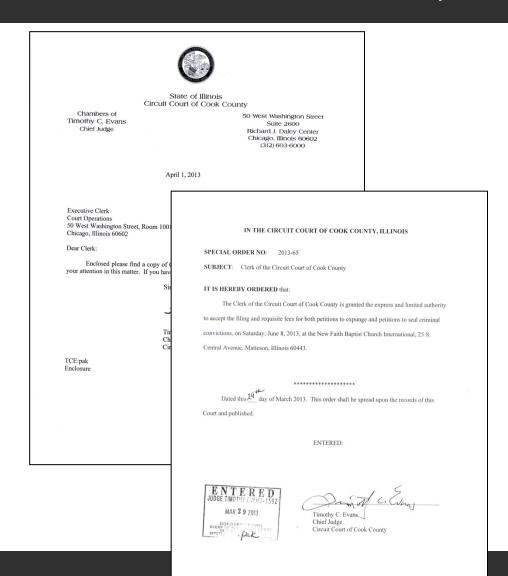
• LEGAL PARTNERS - Having participation from the Legal Community is vital to the success of an Expungement Summit. Must have volunteer attorneys who are knowledgeable about the applicable Expungement/Sealing laws, and are able to review criminal histories and make determinations regarding Expungement/Sealing eligibility. Volunteer attorneys may also assist in the review of juvenile criminal histories, clemency petitions, Certificate of Innocence, petitions for Certificates of Relief from Disabilities, and petitions for Certificates of Good Conduct. Attempt to partner with a legal clinic that provides legal service to low- income persons. All legal partners should participate in planning meetings.

• **LEGAL PARTNERS** - For the Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court's annual Expungement Summit, Cabrini Green Legal Clinic (CGLC) has been a major legal partner. CGLC organizes expungement review training for other volunteers attorneys, and manages the legal advice provided to customers during the Summit. As an incentive to attract attorney participation, volunteer attorneys are given Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits for participating in the Expungement Summit training course. As part of outreach efforts, target law firms, corporate legal departments, local bar associations, legal clinics, and local law schools to solicit volunteer attorneys.



Change: Safer Foundation: Westside Ministers Coalition

REQUEST "OFFICIAL COURT DAY"
 APROVAL- When hosting an
 Expungement Summit on a day
 that is not an official court day,
 approval must be obtained
 from the Chief Judge of the
 respective jurisdiction to conduct
 court.



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PLANNING AN EXPUNGEMENT SUMMIT

SPONSORS and MEDIA PARTNERS Solicit companies who have a vested interest in giving back to the community in any capacity. Sponsorships may take the form of monetary donations, services, food/water and volunteers. Create a sponsor solicitation letter for distribution.

For the 2013 Cook County Expungement Summit, sponsors included: Dell Computers, New Faith Baptist Church International, Walgreens, Sam's Club, Starbucks, Verizon, Entenmanns, and private donations.



2013 EXPUNGEMENT SUMMIT JUNE 8, 2013

- EXHIBITORS/AGENCY SERVICES -There is an unlimited number of services that may be provided during an Expungement Summit. When selecting, consider your audience base and then decide what types of services best meet their needs (short-term and long-term). Depending upon the nature of services provided, certain exhibitors should attend the planning meetings.
 - Exhibitors on site during the 2013 Cook County
 Expungement Summit included: Illinois Secretary of State,
 Illinois Department of Healthcare Services, Illinois
 Department of Employment Security, Illinois State Police,
 Illinois State Appellate Defender, Illinois Prisoner Review
 Board; Chief Judge's Office, Safer Foundation, United
 Services Chicago, and the Chicago Transit Authority.



In Judges are needed to enter orders. While planning the Summit, identify how many judges are needed and request volunteers.



• **EX-OFFENDER INFORMATIONAL FORUM-** This component of the Summit may be designed to educate not only ex-offenders but those attendees who need assistance with preparing for a job interview, workplace etiquette, dressing for success, learning life and work skills. This forum should afford access to companies who have Apprenticeship Programs for ex-offenders as well as identify those companies that hire ex-offenders. Also, have institutions of higher learning and social service organizations represented onsite. The targeting agencies for this forum should attend the planning meetings.

DAY-BEFORE ACTIVITIES

- Delivery Team arrives at negotiated time to deliver equipment and supplies (e.g. copiers, printers, Expungement packets, signage, tables, chairs, stanchions, water, etc.);
- 2. The Project Lead and Team members perform the final walk-thru;
- 3. Tech Team set-ups technological equipment in designated rooms and conducts testing;
- 4. Designated Team Leads are responsible for setting up and organizing rooms;
- 5. Signage is posted throughout facility
- 6. Any additional testing is performed (audio, visual equipment)

EXPUNGEMENT SUMMIT DAY ACTION PLAN

- 1. The Project Team, volunteers, exhibitors, partners, attorneys, and judges arrive at assigned times and report to assigned areas.
- 2. Customers arrive and are organized into lines by Registration Team members.
- 3. The **Registration Team** reviews customers' rap sheets or criminal dispositions (if available) and makes a determination as to category (Juvenile cases, Felony conviction, Misdemeanor conviction, Out-of-County cases, etc.) (Note: some customers come prepared with paperwork, which results in quicker processing.)
- 4. Upon review of available information, the customer is given a color-coded designation card.
- 5. As customers enter the facility, they are given an informational packet and seated within the auditorium according to color-coded designations.
- 6. A panel presentation is made by the Clerk of the Court and selected partners.
- 7. After the presentation, customers are directed and escorted to required service areas: Prisoner Review Board for clemency petition presentation; Disposition Room; Juvenile Petition Review Room; Attorney Review Room; State Appellate Defender; Ex-Offender Information Forum.

EXPUNGEMENT SUMMIT DAY ACTION PLAN

- 8. Customers who have criminal histories but do not come prepared with any type of paperwork, they will go through the following process; Obtain criminal history information from the Disposition Room; Pay for disposition information within the same room; Meet with a volunteer attorney who will review entire criminal history and make a determination as to whether the customer qualifies for expungement or sealing. If eligible, the customer is escorted to the Cashier Room and the petition is filed and filling fees are collected. (Note: the Clerk's Office is responsible for serving notice of the filing to the designated agencies.)
- 9. In some instances when the customer is at the stage of filing his/her petition, the Clerk's Office staff is informed that the filer does not have the means to pay. At that time, the customer is escorted to the **Indigent Petition Review Hearing Room** to explain circumstances to an available judge. If the judge determines that the filer is indigent, then the applicable filing fees are waived and an order is entered. (See Illinois Supreme Court Rule 298). After the hearing the customer is escorted back to the Cashier Room and the Petition is filed. The customer is given a file-stamped copy and then advised of additional information about the process.

PERFECTING AN EXPUNGEMENT SUMMIT

DEBRIEF AFTER SUMMIT- The Lead Agency should schedule a meeting with the core committee to discuss the successes as well as areas for improvement. This meeting should be scheduled at least a month after the event and the Summit Lead is responsible for reporting on final statistics (e.g., number of attendees, number of filings, revenue generated) customer service issues, logistical issues, unforeseen circumstances, etc.

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Helping Counties to Bring Second Chance Opportunities

QUESTIONS?

www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org