

# Checklist to Seal Your Criminal Record in Nevada

## How to Get Your Criminal Record Sealed in Nevada

If you want to seal your criminal record in Nevada, there are certain conditions that you must meet. For example, the court will only seal your record if the judge believes you are rehabilitated. Also, there are various wait times imposed based on the crime in question.

Sealing your record is a specific procedure that you can do to hide your criminal record. The record gets physically taken out of the record system. Once the record gets sealed, it is no longer accessible to anyone searching for your criminal record. Only individual government employees in specific cases can access these records.

## How Long Is the Waiting Period in Nevada?

Each type of criminal record involves a different waiting period. Until the waiting period is over with, you cannot seal your criminal record. While sexual offenses cannot get sealed, you can seal most criminal records. The following list includes the wait times for each kind of crime.

- **Misdemeanors:** 12 months
- **Gross misdemeanors, E felonies, misdemeanor battery, stalking, harassment, or violating a protection order:** 2 years
- **B felonies, C felonies, and most D felonies:** 5 years
- **Battery domestic violence and misdemeanor DUI:** 7 years
- **Felony crimes involving violence, burglary of a residence, and A felonies:** 10 years
- **Crimes against children, felony DUI, sex crimes, and invasion of a home with a deadly weapon:** Never

Sealing your criminal records involves multiple steps. Because of this, the process can take several months to complete. Many people in Nevada use an attorney to help them deal with this procedure because of the numerous steps involved.

## **How to Seal Your Criminal Record in Nevada**

The process for sealing your court records depends on your jurisdiction. You also need to make sure you correctly fill your paperwork out. If you make an error on your paperwork, it could slow down the process by several months.

If you live in Las Vegas and Clark County, the Eighth Judicial District Court can help you out. Local courts also serve this region in each municipality that can help you seal your record. First, you must get a verified copy of your criminal history. This criminal history is called a SCOPE. You can get it by calling the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department at (702) 828-3475. Also, you will need to pay a fee.

The previous step is all you must do to get a SCOPE if you were acquitted of a crime but only charged. Otherwise, you must get a judgment of conviction and discharge. You can do this by going to the court clerk in Las Vegas.

The second step in the process is to figure out which court you should petition. Look at your SCOPE. If all your charges are from a single court, then you should go to that court. If your charges are from multiple courts, you need to file your forms with the Eighth Judicial District Court of Clark County.

Once this step is complete, you can move on to the third step. Now, you need to create an affidavit, petition, and order. The district attorney for Clark County offers specific forms for record sealing. All documents need to have a type written format, so you will need a computer to fill them out.

If your SCOPE does not have a final disposition, you will need to go to the law enforcement agency that arrested you or the court with jurisdiction over it. Your order and the petition must also include all the agencies that currently have a copy of your criminal record. These agencies may consist of organizations like the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police and the Nevada Department of Public Safety Records Bureau. When your affidavit, petition, and order are complete, you need to sign and date them. Then, you should create three copies of every document.

The fourth step in the process is to mail your paperwork to the district attorney in Las Vegas. You can also drop off your packet in person. This packet should include your judgment of conviction and discharge, your affidavit, the original petition, the order, and your SCOPE. There should be three copies of your testimony, order, and petition in the packet.

Once you send in the packet, it can take several weeks for the district attorney's office to review your petition. When they decide, they will mail back your original forms and any extra copies. They will keep one copy of everything.

If everything goes according to plan, the district attorney and a judge will carry out the final step in the process. The district attorney will give your file to the court clerk, and the court clerk will give it to the judge. Then, the judge will sign the order for sealing your criminal record. Once the order to seal your record is signed, you will get the forms back. Finally, you can distribute copies of the order to all the agencies that currently have a copy of your criminal record. Afterward, the agencies are required to remove your criminal record from their databases.

## **How Do I Seal My Criminal Record in Other Courts?**

Each court in Nevada has a specific process for sealing criminal records. Generally, they will use a method like the one Clark County uses. You will need to get your criminal records before turning in your petition to the judge and prosecutor. Once your request is approved, you will have to mail your order to seal all the government agencies that have a record of

your criminal history. In most cases, the court responsible for sealing your criminal records is the court that presided over your criminal case.

## **Can You Deny Having a Criminal History After Your Record Is Sealed?**

Once your criminal record gets sealed, you can apply for apartments and jobs as if you do not have a criminal record. You are legally allowed to deny having a criminal history in a job interview. Other than a few limitations, you can also deny your criminal record when you are under oath as well. By getting your record sealed, you can improve your educational, employment, and housing opportunities.

---