

1 AN ACT relating to expungement of criminal records.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 431.076 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) **(a) On or after the effective date of this Act, if a court enters an order of**  
 5 **acquittal of criminal charges against a person, or enters an order**  
 6 **dismissing with prejudice all criminal charges in a case against a person**  
 7 **and not in exchange for a guilty plea to another charge, the court shall**  
 8 **order the record expunged upon the expiration of thirty (30) days, unless**  
 9 **the person objects to the expungement. The order expunging the records**  
 10 **shall not require any action by the person.**

11 **(b)** A person who has been charged with a criminal offense and who has been  
 12 **acquitted**~~[found not guilty]~~ of the **charges**~~[offense]~~, or against whom charges  
 13 have been dismissed and not in exchange for a guilty plea to another  
 14 **charge**~~[offense]~~, ~~[or against whom felony charges originally filed in the~~  
 15 ~~District Court have not resulted in an indictment by the grand jury, ]~~**and**  
 16 **whose records have not been expunged pursuant to paragraph (a) of this**  
 17 **subsection,** may petition the ~~[District or Circuit]~~ court in which the  
 18 **disposition of the** charges **was made**~~[were filed]~~ to expunge all  
 19 **charges**~~[records]~~.

20 **(c) A person against whom felony charges originally filed in the District Court**  
 21 **have not resulted in an indictment by the grand jury may petition the**  
 22 **District Court in which the charges were filed to dismiss and expunge all**  
 23 **charges for which an indictment has not issued.**

24 (2) ~~An~~**The** expungement petition **brought under paragraph (b) or (c) of subsection**  
 25 **(1) of this section** shall be filed no sooner than:

26 **(a)** Sixty (60) days following the order of acquittal or dismissal with prejudice by  
 27 the court;

1 (b) Six (6)~~[, Twelve (12)]~~ months following the date of the District Court  
 2 decision to hold the matter to the grand jury;~~[,]~~ or

3 (c) For charges dismissed without prejudice:

4 1. For felony charges, three (3) years following the date of the order of  
 5 dismissal without prejudice; or

6 2. For misdemeanor charges, one (1) year following the date of the order  
 7 of dismissal without prejudice.

8 ~~[Five (5) years following the date of the order of dismissal without prejudice. The~~  
 9 ~~petition shall be served upon the office of the Commonwealth's attorney or~~  
 10 ~~county attorney that prosecuted the case.~~

11 ~~(3) Following the filing of the petition, the court may set a date for a hearing. If the~~  
 12 ~~court does so, it shall notify the county or Commonwealth's attorney, as appropriate,~~  
 13 ~~of an opportunity for a response to the expungement petition. In addition, if the~~  
 14 ~~criminal charge relates to the abuse or neglect of a child, the court shall also notify~~  
 15 ~~the Office of General Counsel of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services of an~~  
 16 ~~opportunity for a response to the expungement petition. The counsel for the Cabinet~~  
 17 ~~for Health and Family Services shall respond to the expungement petition, within~~  
 18 ~~twenty (20) days of receipt of the notice, which period of time shall not be extended~~  
 19 ~~by the court, if the Cabinet for Health and Family Services has custody of records~~  
 20 ~~reflecting that the person charged with the criminal offense has been determined by~~  
 21 ~~the cabinet or by a court under KRS Chapter 620 to be a substantiated perpetrator of~~  
 22 ~~child abuse or neglect. If the cabinet fails to respond to the expungement petition or~~  
 23 ~~if the cabinet fails to prevail, the order of expungement shall extend to the cabinet's~~  
 24 ~~records. If the cabinet prevails, the order of expungement shall not extend to the~~  
 25 ~~cabinet's records.]~~

26 (3) (a) If the court finds that the petition under subsection (1)(b) is properly  
 27 brought, the court shall~~[(4) If the court finds that there are no current charges~~

1           ~~or proceedings pending relating to the matter for which the expungement is~~  
2           ~~sought, the court may] grant the petition and order the expunging of the[all]~~  
3           ~~records[ in the custody of the court and any records in the custody of any other~~  
4           ~~agency or official, including law enforcement records].~~

5           **(b) 1.** If the expungement petition **is brought under subsection (1)(c) of this**  
6           **section**[pertains to felony charges originally filed in the District Court  
7           ~~which have not resulted in an indictment by the grand jury], **the petition**  
8           **shall be served upon the offices of the county and Commonwealth's**  
9           **attorneys that prosecuted the case.**~~

10           **2.** **Following the filing of the petition, the court shall notify the county**  
11           **and Commonwealth's attorney of an opportunity for a response to the**  
12           **petition. The response shall be filed within ninety (90) days after the**  
13           **filing of the petition.**

14           **3.** **If a response is not filed, ninety (90) days after the filing of the petition**  
15           **the court shall dismiss the charges without prejudice and order the**  
16           **expunging of the records.**

17           **4.** **If a response is filed, three (3) months after the date the response is**  
18           **filed, if an indictment has not issued, the court**[and the Circuit Court or  
19           ~~District Court grants the motion, it] shall dismiss **without prejudice** the  
20           charges **for which an indictment has not issued** and order the  
21           expunging of the records.~~

22           **(4) An order of expungement pursuant to this section shall expunge all records in**  
23           **the custody of the court and any records in the custody of any other agency or**  
24           **official, including law enforcement records.** The court shall order the expunging  
25           on a form provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Every agency, with  
26           records relating to the arrest, charge, or other matters arising out of the arrest or  
27           charge, that is ordered to expunge records, shall certify to the court within sixty (60)

1 days of the entry of the expungement order, that the required expunging action has  
2 been completed. All orders enforcing the expungement procedure shall also be  
3 expunged.

4 **(5) (a) If an expungement is ordered under subsection (1)(a) or (b) of this section,**  
5 **an appellate court which issued an opinion in the case shall order the**  
6 **appellate case file to be sealed and also direct that the version of the**  
7 **appellate opinion published on the court's Web site be modified to avoid use**  
8 **of the defendant's name in the case title and body of the opinion.**

9 ~~(b)(5)}~~ If an expungement is ordered under **subsection (1)(c) of** this section, an  
10 appellate court which issued an opinion in the case may, upon motion of the  
11 petitioner in the case, order the appellate case file to be sealed and also direct  
12 that the version of the appellate opinion published on the court's Web site be  
13 modified to avoid use of the petitioner's name in the case title and body of the  
14 opinion.

15 (6) After the expungement, the proceedings in the matter shall be deemed never to have  
16 occurred. The court and other agencies shall delete or remove the records from their  
17 computer systems so that any official state-performed background check will  
18 indicate that the records do not exist. The court and other agencies shall reply to any  
19 inquiry that no record exists on the matter. The person whose record is expunged  
20 shall not have to disclose the fact of the record or any matter relating thereto on an  
21 application for employment, credit, or other type of application.

22 (7) **Inspection of the records included in the order may thereafter be permitted by the**  
23 **court only upon petition by the person who is the subject of the records and only**  
24 **to those persons named in the petition.**

25 **(8) Except as provided in subsection (1)(a) of this section,** this section shall be  
26 retroactive.