



Please support SB 575 Juvenile Expunction Reform

Juvenile records can have devastating, life-long, effects. Records limit youths' ability to secure housing, obtain jobs, and pursue higher education.

The burdens created by juvenile court records disproportionately harm Black, Indigenous and low-income youth, who are overrepresented at all stages of the juvenile system and are most heavily burdened by the consequences of juvenile court records.

Youth who have successfully completed accountability and rehabilitative programs should have the opportunity to be productive community members. Expunction plays an important part in that opportunity. **Less than 10% of eligible youth expunge their records.**

SB 575 gives youth a clean slate by automatically expunging a modest subset of juvenile records of persons over 18 years old who have never been found within the juvenile court jurisdiction but have had a "contact" (a law enforcement report of a behavior that could have resulted in juvenile court involvement). The juvenile departments will initiate this automatic process, ensuring that "contacts" are expunged.

SB 575 allows youth to access expungement assistance by requesting appointed counsel before beginning the application process, rather than waiting until the District Attorney objects to the application. Under SB 575, young people won't have to fill out the complex paperwork by themselves and will be able to get advice about eligibility before they start the process.

SB 575 does not reduce the legal requirements that individuals must satisfy to get their juvenile records expunged nor does it alter the list of offenses which may be expunged.

We support juvenile expunction reform:

