

Community Legal Aid

A non-profit law firm serving the legal needs of low-income individuals and families in central northeast Ohio

www.communitylegalaid.org

Can my sealed record

Can my sealed record be seen?

Once your record is sealed, there are only a few groups of people who can still access it.

Law enforcement and police can see your sealed records in their work. This could include police investigating a new crime, as well as judges, prosecutors, probations officers, or other professionals.

Some employers also are required to get special background checks that can show your sealed record. This is common for jobs where you'll be working with vulnerable populations (like kids, senior citizens, or those who are sick), or where you'll have to operate special machinery or equipment, like a commercial license. These special exceptions are run through the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, which other employers wouldn't have access to.

In all other instances, though, your record isn't available to the public. So, if you are applying for a job or for rental housing, when the application asks if you have a criminal background, you are legally allowed to answer "no."

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