

How do I prepare for my court hearing?



Maintain a clean record since your adjudication.

Provide information on any positive activities you have been involved in.



Include school grades, community involvement, employment, etc.

You can provide letters of recommendation from employers, organizations, churches, family or friends.



Bring proof of completion for any rehabilitation or treatment you have attended.

Always bring an honest and positive attitude to court.



What happens after my court hearing?

You will be notified of the Court's decision by mail. You must then submit copies of the court order to the Michigan State Police.



For more information on the process of Setting Aside a Juvenile Adjudication and to find Self-Help tools and forms at no cost, go to:
michiganlegalhelp.org.

It is recommended that you consult an attorney to assist you in this process.

Expungement:



How Do I Set Aside A Juvenile Adjudication Record?



**THIRTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT COURT**

FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE
212 E. Paw Paw Street—Suite 240
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Telephone No.: (269) 657-8237
Fax No.: (269) 657-8275
Email Address:
Juvenile@vanburencountymi.gov

What does it mean to have my juvenile adjudication set aside?

If you have been found responsible for a crime as a minor it is called a juvenile adjudication. Setting aside an adjudication — also called “expungement” — clears your juvenile public record.

If your adjudication is set aside, it does not appear in a typical background check. This may be helpful when you are applying for a job or a professional license. The Michigan State Police does keep a nonpublic record of adjudications that have been set aside. Law enforcement agencies and certain other employers may still be able to see adjudications that have been set aside.

Who is eligible to have a juvenile adjudication set aside ?

Effective July 3, 2021, an individual may apply to have their adjudication(s) set aside one year after termination of court jurisdiction, regardless of age.

Effective July 3, 2023, certain adjudications will be automatically set aside without an application two years after the termination of court jurisdiction or at 18 years of age, whichever is later. For information on whether your adjudications will automatically be set aside, please consult an attorney.

The Number Of Adjudications On Your Juvenile Record

If you have more than three juvenile adjudications or more than one felony adjudication, you are not eligible to have any of your adjudications set aside.

* *If you had adjudications for more than one offense, but they happened within 12 hours and show a single intent or goal, they may be counted as one offense for the purpose of seeking expungement. To count as one offense, none of the offenses can be an assaultive offense, involve the use or possession of a weapon, or carry a possible punishment of more than 10 years in prison.*

Type of Offense

You are not able to set aside an adjudication if it was for:

- ◇ A felony punishable by life in prison
- ◇ An adult felony conviction

Consult an attorney for information on how an adult criminal conviction may be set aside in certain cases.



How do I apply to set aside my juvenile adjudication?

The following steps are required to have a juvenile record set aside.

Fingerprints

Fingerprints need to be submitted on a RI-008 card obtained from a local law enforcement agency.

Copy of Your Juvenile Record

Obtain a certified copy of your juvenile record from the court where the adjudication was entered. There may be a charge for this document.

Complete an Application

The form can be found at: <https://michiganlegalhelp.org/self-help-tools/crime-traffic-and-id/do-it-yourself-expungement-juvenile-adjudication>.

File the Application

File the application and all required documentation with the court where the adjudication occurred. You will receive notification of a hearing date.

Mail Copies of the Application

Copies of your application and all other required documentation must be mailed to the Michigan State Police, Attorney General and the prosecutor who oversaw the juvenile case.

Attend Your Hearing

You must be present in court at the time of your hearing. The Court’s decision to set aside your adjudication must be based on two things:

- 1) That the circumstances and behavior of the applicant from the date of the adjudication to the filing of the application warrant setting aside the adjudications.
- 2) Setting aside the adjudication is consistent with the public welfare.