



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

GEORGE GASCÓN • District Attorney
JOSEPH F. INIGUEZ • Chief Deputy District Attorney

DANIEL FELIZZATTO • Legislative Advocate
TAMAR TOKAT • Legislative Advocate

July 18, 2024

The Honorable Corey Jackson
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 6120
Sacramento, CA 95814

ASSEMBLY BILL 1877 (JACKSON) SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Jackson:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 1877.

AB 1877 requires a county probation officer to petition a court to seal the records of any person previously adjudicated a ward of the court, who has reached the age of 18, and who is no longer under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

As amended, AB 1877 clarifies that a county probation officer is only obligated to petition the court to seal records if: (a) a petition is actually filed against the person in juvenile court (removing language pertaining to people that were not charged in juvenile court); (b) the person has turned 18 years of age; (c) the person has not been charged with a 707(b) offense after turning 14 years of age; and (d) is not charged with a sex offense requiring registration.

As amended, AB 1877 also states that a court must seal the records if a person has not been convicted of felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude since termination of juvenile jurisdiction. These amendments additionally provide that the probation department must notify the juvenile and their counsel at least 30 days prior to filing the petition. This will allow the juvenile's counsel to determine if the person is actually eligible for this relief. AB 1877 also adopted language that mirrors notice requirements in Welfare and Institutions Code section 781 and 786 pertaining to the prosecutor's obligations pursuant to *Brady v. Maryland*.

Existing law contains several provisions governing the circumstances in which a person may seek to seal juvenile records. These statutes are often unwieldy and apply to several different circumstances depending on the nature of the underlying charges, whether probation or diversion was granted, and whether the juvenile completed probation. Additionally, in some instances, the law grants a person of record the right to

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file a petition to seal records, and in other cases, the law mandates a court order for juvenile records to be sealed.

AB 1877 is intended to simplify California's juvenile record sealing statutes. Nothing in AB 1877 modifies or expands the eligibility of which juvenile records are sealed, it simply makes the record sealing process less cumbersome for an eligible juvenile.

As amended, AB 1877 will increase opportunities for juveniles to receive automatic record sealing in a manner that is similar to what is offered to adults in California.

For this reason, our Office is pleased to support AB 1877.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Daniel Felizzatto in my Sacramento Legislative Office at (916) 442-0668.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Gascón", written in a cursive style.

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney