

Fresh Start Criminal Record Relief Services

- ◆ Expungement (Dismissal) of Criminal Convictions
- ◆ Prop. 47 Relief (Reclassifying Certain Low Level Felonies to Misdemeanors)
- ◆ Prop. 64 Relief (Reclassifying Certain Marijuana Crimes)
- ◆ Motions to Reduce Felony Convictions to Misdemeanors
- ◆ Motions for Early Termination of Probation
- ◆ Certificates of Rehabilitation/ Gubernatorial Pardons
- ◆ Gang Documentation Relief
- ◆ Human Trafficking Victim Conviction Relief
- ◆ DNA Database Expungement
- ◆ Correcting Errors in Department of Justice Criminal History Records
- ◆ Dismissal Petitions for Successful PC1000 Participants per PC1203.43
- ◆ Sealing Adult Arrest Records

Our Mission

To protect the rights, liberties, and dignity of all persons in San Diego County and maintain the integrity and fairness of the American Justice System by providing the finest legal representation in the cases entrusted to us.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

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Fresh Start Program

Comprehensive Criminal Record Relief



**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC
DEFENDER**

Fresh Start: Comprehensive Criminal Record Relief

The Fresh Start Program

A criminal record can make finding employment, obtaining housing, enrolling in and funding education, and securing other civic opportunities very difficult. The good news is that there are options for you to move forward, even if you have made mistakes in the past. From reducing felony convictions to misdemeanors to dismissing/expunging your criminal convictions to getting Certificates of Rehabilitation, and more, the County of San Diego Office of the Public Defender is pleased to help you with your Fresh Start!

In order to best advise you on your record relief options, we will obtain a copy of your California Department of Justice Criminal History Report (“rap sheet”) on your behalf at no cost to you.

Our experienced attorneys will then review your California criminal history, develop a detailed Fresh Start plan, consult with you about the best strategies to move forward, and seek all appropriate methods of relief for you.



Do you need a Lawyer to Get Criminal Record Relief?

Not necessarily. Some Fresh Start Criminal Record Relief options are relatively straight forward. You can access the appropriate forms from the San Diego Superior Court web site. The San Diego County Law Library also has resources available. While you do not necessarily need a lawyer, you may want one. You may hire a lawyer or our office may be able to help you at no cost.

Does it Cost Anything To Get a Fresh Start?

Only a very few of the Fresh Start Relief options have court fees. If you have a limited income, Fresh Start can help you apply to waive the court fees. There is no fee for our services. Our services are free.

Want to learn more about how to get a Fresh Start and the criminal record relief options available?

For a detailed list of Frequently Asked Questions about the record relief services offered through Fresh Start visit our web site:

www.sandiegocounty.gov/public_defender.

Ready for a Fresh Start?

To request assistance, please fill out a Fresh Start Request for Assistance form found at www.sandiego.gov/public_defender. No computer access? Call our office at (619) 338-4700 and we will mail you an application, or you may pick up an application at any of our offices.

Once we receive your request for assistance form, one of our lawyers will review your criminal history and create a Fresh Start Plan for you. All information is kept confidential.

What can you do to get ready for a Fresh Start?

Make a list of all the positive things you have done to move forward in your life. Collect any documents/records showing the helpful things you have done for yourself, your family and your community since your case(s) happened (for example, education, counseling, employment, volunteer work, family commitments, etc.).

Have a Question?

Feel free to e-mail your question to Fresh.Start@sdcounty.ca.gov or call (619) 338-4700 and ask to speak to a Fresh Start lawyer.