



Delaware Juvenile Collateral Consequences



Delinquent Act	An act committed by a child that, if committed by an adult, would constitute a crime.
Adjudication of Delinquency	Adjudication is when a Family Court court judge decides that you broke the law. It is not a conviction. "Conviction" is a term used in adult court when a judge or jury decides that someone broke the law.
Records Open to the Public	Your juvenile criminal record is open to the public, <i>unless</i> your record has been expunged.
Family Court Proceedings Open to the Public	All proceedings before the Court and all records of such proceedings <i>may</i> be private except to the extent that the Court may consider publication in the public interest
Employment Opportunities	You <i>might</i> need to say that you have a juvenile record on some job applications, which could affect the employer's decision to hire you.
Public Housing	Your juvenile record <i>may</i> affect your access to public housing.
Access to Schools	Your juvenile record can be shared with your school and may affect your ability to continue or attend the same school. Adjudications involving dangerous or sexual offenses will be shared with schools
Access to Higher Education	You <i>may</i> need to say you have a juvenile record on some college applications, which could affect the school's decision to accept you.
Military	Your juvenile record <i>may</i> make it harder for you to enlist in the military.
Sex Offender Registry	Juvenile sex offenders <i>are</i> required to register in the same manner as adults, <i>but</i> the court has discretion to excuse you from registration in some situations.
DNA samples	If you are required to register as a sex offender, a sample of your DNA will be taken and the resulting profile will be stored in a database maintained by the state police.
Driver's License	Your driver's license may be suspended or revoked as a result of having a juvenile record for something related to driving. Your juvenile record should not impact your ability to get a state ID.
Purchasing/Possessing a Firearm	Juveniles are always prohibited from possessing a firearm. If you are adjudicated for a felony, you <i>lose</i> the right to carry, possess, own, control a deadly weapon, or ammunition for a firearm, until you are at least 25 years old.
Fines, Court Costs, and Restitution	Unpaid court fees or restitution can make it harder to get loans, a car, and even a job because it will hurt your credit score..
Immigration Status	Your juvenile record might affect your ability to remain in the US, either immediately or at some point in the future
Adult Sentencing	Adjudications <i>may</i> affect adult sentencing. However, once expunged, your juvenile record is no longer considered a crime nor is it admissible in future civil or criminal proceedings.
Jury Service	A young person is eligible for jury service at age 18, even with a juvenile adjudication.
Voting	A young person is eligible to register and vote at age 18, even with a juvenile adjudication.
Public Benefits & Federal Loans/Monies	Juvenile adjudications do not affect one's eligibility to receive Social Security Income (SSI). A juvenile adjudication should not affect your ability to receive federal loans/monies unless you are arrested while receiving federal loans/monies.
Child Protection Registry	If you are adjudicated delinquent for certain offenses against a child, you will be placed on the Child Protection Registry at a level based on the seriousness of the offense.
Foster Parent/ Adoption	Before you can become a foster or adoptive parent, an investigation by the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families is required. Adjudications for sexually-related offenses and offenses against children will be a bar to adoption.
Expungement	You <i>may</i> be eligible for an expungement of your juvenile record. You can request to have your juvenile record expunged immediately or after a certain number of years, depending on the nature of the offense and your record. Once expunged, your juvenile record is no longer considered a delinquent act nor is it admissible in future civil or criminal proceedings.

Should you have additional questions about collateral consequences, juvenile justice, or juvenile expungements, please contact us!



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The Delaware Office of Defense Services

