



ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON CODES

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON CORRECTION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Sealing of criminal records and expansion of youthful offender status

PURPOSE: To examine the effectiveness of current laws regarding the sealing of criminal records and to explore expansion of such laws as well as expanding laws related to youthful offender status.

NEW YORK CITY

Tuesday, December 10, 2019
10:30 A.M.

Assembly Hearing Room 1923, 19th Floor
250 Broadway, New York, New York

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

The sealing of criminal convictions has been a critical component of New York's success in reforming its criminal justice system. As a result of sealing, people with records of certain arrests, prosecutions, and convictions are more able to rebuild their lives. The Assembly has a long history of working to remove barriers for individuals who come into contact with the criminal justice system in order to promote successful reentry and reduce recidivism. While the sealing provisions enacted as part of Rockefeller Drug Law reform and Raise the Age legislation marked a significant step forward, the laws have been underutilized. This hearing will examine the reasons why more people have not been able to benefit from the sealing provisions and consider ways to improve and potentially expand the laws.

Youthful offender status may be granted to individuals who are charged with committing a crime while being at least 16 years of age but less than 19. Similar to sealing, youthful offender status removes the stigma of a criminal conviction and allows young people to continue through life unencumbered by a criminal record. While youthful offender status has been an effective reentry tool, there have been calls to expand the law's provisions as well as to allow older youth to benefit. This hearing will examine these proposals and consider how the youthful offender law can be improved.

Persons invited to present testimony to the committees at this hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be accepted by invitation only and limited to **ten (10)** minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the committees will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to committee staff as early as possible.

Twenty (20) copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The committees would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

Joseph R. Lentol
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on Codes

David I. Weprin
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on Correction

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

Persons invited to present testimony at the public hearing on sealing of criminal records and expansion of youthful offender status are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and mail, email, or fax it to:

**Nathaniel Jenkins
Principal Analyst
Assembly Committee on Codes
Room 513, Capitol
Albany, New York 12248
Email: jenkinsn@nyassembly.gov
Phone: 518-455-4313
Fax: 518-455-7250**

I have been invited to the public hearing concerning sealing of criminal records and expansion of youthful offender status on December 10, 2019, and plan to present testimony. My testimony will be limited to ten (10) minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide twenty (20) copies of my prepared testimony.

I plan to attend and observe the public hearing concerning sealing of criminal records and expansion of youthful offender status on December 10, 2019.

I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

I do not plan to attend the above hearing.

I would like to be added to the Committees' mailing lists for notices and reports.

I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:**

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX TELEPHONE: _____