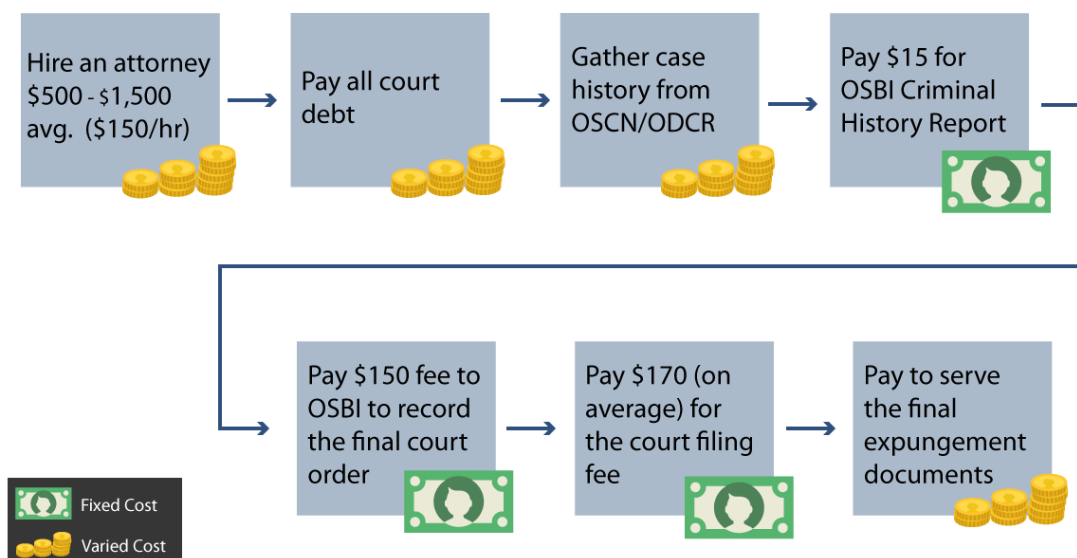


What is an Automatic Expungement?

- An **expungement** allows individuals to seal a court record or an arrest record. This prevents the public from having access to the information.
- An **automatic or “Clean Slate” expungement** uses modern computer tools to streamline this record clearance process by reducing the administrative cost for courts and eligible defendants.
- **Nearly 20 states** have adopted some form of automatic record clearance for their adult or juvenile criminal justice systems. Most recently Utah, Michigan and Pennsylvania adopted significant Clean Slate expungement reforms.
- Hundreds of thousands of Oklahomans currently have criminal records that make it more difficult to obtain **employment, access housing and simply have normal productive lives**. The unemployment rate for justice involved Oklahomans is five times the state average and the formerly incarcerated are ten times more likely to experience homelessness than the general population according to the Prison Policy Initiative.
- If these Oklahomans could expunge their criminal records it would be much easier for them to access employment and **become productive citizens**, but the current expungement system is too expensive and complicated for most eligible Oklahomans to access the benefits of an expungement.

Steps in the Oklahoma Expungement Process



Based on OSBI estimates from 2017.



Steps in Oklahoma's Automatic Expungement Process



Key Expungement Facts

- Automatic "Clean Slate" expungement **does not alter expungement eligibility**. It simply takes the existing legal process and computerizes it to reduce administrative and application cost and reduce paperwork.
- Automatic "Clean Slate" expungement **does not hide criminal records from law enforcement**. Arrest or court records would continue to be visible to law enforcement, but sealed from public view for things like employment, housing and education access.
- Automatic "Clean Slate" expungement **rewards good behavior** as current law precludes expungement access for anyone with new criminal cases or anyone with violent records.
- Automatic "Clean Slate" expungement **would benefit hundreds of thousands of Oklahomans** and could be focused on relatively narrow cases types- like misdemeanors, acquittals and dismissed cases.

If Oklahomans could expunge their criminal records, it would be much easier for them to access employment and become productive citizens.