



# Sealing Expansion for Felony Convictions

Effective January 1, 2014

- On August 2, 2013, Governor Pat Quinn signed into law Illinois Public Act 98-0142. The revised Illinois Criminal Identification Act.
- The National Employment Law Project estimates that nearly 3.9 million adults in Illinois have a criminal record, excluding them from jobs and employment. (1)
- A study conducted in Chicago by the American Bar Association Commission on Effective Criminal Sanctions as well as other studies have found that people with criminal records who cannot secure employment are three times more likely to recidivate than those individuals who are able to find work.
- Illinois Public Act, 98-0142 continues our efforts to enact “smart on crime” strategies that increase public safety, improve lives and make more effective use of taxpayer dollars.

## What does Public Act 98-0142 do?

- **Expands** the sealing law to allow a person to petition the court to seal 6 additional Class 3 and Class 4 felony convictions.
- Additional eligible offenses include the following; **Possession with Intent to Manufacture or Deliver a Controlled Substance, Theft (720ILCS 5/16-1), Forgery (720 ILCS 5/17-1), Retail Theft (720 ILCS 5/16-3), Deceptive Practices (720 ILCS 5/17-1), Possession of Burglary Tools**
- There is no limit on the number of eligible offenses that can sealed through the court’s petition process.
- A person must wait 4 years after the completion of their last sentence.
- If it is a drug offense, the person must pass a drug test within 30 days of filing a sealing petition.
- Sealed records are always **accessible** to **law enforcement** and employers that are allowed to access records by law for **public safety** reasons: schools, park districts, public transportation, health care organization and financial institutions.
- Removes barriers and increases opportunities to employment/self-sufficiency for people with criminal records.

For additional information contact:  
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(1) Progress Illinois, “No Priors” Hiring All Too Common, ; <http://www.progressillinois.com/posts/content/2011/03/23/no-priors-hiring-all-too-common>

