



FY2011 RECOMMENDATION/FY11-D17 SEALING OF RECORDS (#9): NUMBER AND DATES OF OFFENSES

Status: Implementation Complete

Actions/Updates

2012 ACTION/IMPLEMENTATION

These recommendations were encompassed, with changes, by H.B. 11-1167: Concerning the petition process for the sealing of certain drug offense records. The provisions of the bill apply to convictions entered on and after July 1, 2011. For convictions prior to July 1, 2011, the time frames of the bill are applicable but sealing of the criminal records is available only with the consent of the district attorney and subsequent court review and approval.

Action on this recommendation was completed with the passage of House Bill 11-1167.

Description

Amend current law to require that the court and the district attorney consider the number of convictions and the dates of the offenses in granting a petition to seal. Under current law, there is no limitation on the number of cases or criminal episodes that are eligible for sealing after the statutory waiting period.

Agencies Responsible

Discussion

Current law allows for drug possession convictions to be sealed after a ten year waiting period. The recommendations presented here reduce the waiting time period for low level offenses and recommend waiting periods consistent with the research which has found that that after a certain period former offenders create no higher risk to public safety than those with no criminal history. Specifically, researchers have found that the likelihood to reoffend decreases dramatically for those who remain crime-free for 7 years, nearly matching the risk of new offenses among those with no criminal history.