

Information on: **Expungement of Convictions**

Committing even a minor crime can result in a criminal conviction. Having a criminal record can be a big obstacle when it comes to work, education, insurance, travel and even volunteering. However, some convictions can be removed from your record after a certain period of time.

Convictions for offences committed aged under 18

Under the *Children Act 2001*, certain convictions can be removed from your record if you were aged under 18 when you committed the crime.

There are a few conditions that must be met:



3 years must have passed since the date the conviction was received and you cannot have been convicted of another offence in the intervening 3 years. Crimes that can only be dealt with in the Central Criminal Court cannot become spent.



No Limit

Unlike convictions for offences committed aged 18 or over, there is no limit to the number of eligible convictions that can be removed from someone's criminal record under the *Children Act 2001*.

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The removal of eligible convictions from your record happens automatically. If convictions that you think should have been removed still appear on your record, you should contact the National Vetting Bureau.



Automatic removal

Different laws apply for offences committed when a person was aged 18 or over.

Find out more:

The information presented here is not exhaustive. A number of exclusions and exceptions apply.

This information is general guidance and not legal advice. It is important to check whether your convictions are eligible to become spent under the law.

For more information on the relevant laws, see:

- Criminal Justice (Spent Convictions and Certain Disclosures Act) 2016
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2016/act/4/enacted/en/html>
- National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2012/act/47/enacted/en/html>
- Children Act 2001
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2001/act/24/enacted/en/html> (Section 258)

For more information on Garda vetting, visit: <https://vetting.garda.ie/>

For more information on spent convictions, visit: www.iprt.ie/spent-convictions