

STATE OF NEW YORK

8798

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

November 27, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. QUART -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law, in relation to orders of adjournment in contemplation of dismissal and sealing of defendant records

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 160.58 of the criminal procedure
2 law, as added by section 3 of part AAA of chapter 56 of the laws of
3 2009, is amended to read as follows:

4 1. A defendant convicted of any offense defined in article two hundred
5 twenty or two hundred twenty-one of the penal law or a specified offense
6 defined in subdivision five of section 410.91 of this chapter who has
7 successfully completed a judicial diversion program under article two
8 hundred sixteen of this chapter, or one of the programs heretofore known
9 as drug treatment alternative to prison or another judicially sanctioned
10 drug treatment program of similar duration, requirements and level of
11 supervision, and has completed the sentence imposed for the offense or
12 offenses, [~~is eligible to~~] shall have such offense or offenses sealed
13 pursuant to this section.

14 § 2. Subdivision 2 of section 160.58 of the criminal procedure law, as
15 added by section 3 of part AAA of chapter 56 of the laws of 2009, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 2. The court that sentenced the defendant to a judicially sanctioned
18 drug treatment program [~~may on its own motion, or on the defendant's~~
19 ~~motion,~~] shall order that all official records [~~and papers relating to~~
20 ~~the arrest, prosecution and conviction which resulted in the defendant's~~
21 ~~participation in the judicially sanctioned drug treatment program be~~
22 ~~conditionally sealed~~], documents, pleadings and records exchanged as
23 part of discovery relating to the arrest, indictment, prosecution,
24 conviction, or plea agreement which resulted in the defendant's partic-
25 ipation in the judicially sanctioned drug treatment program be sealed.
26 In such case, the court may also [~~conditionally~~] seal the arrest, [~~pro-~~
27 ~~secution and conviction records for no more than three of the defendant's~~

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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~~prior eligible misdemeanors, which for purposes of this subdivision shall be limited to misdemeanor offenses defined in article two hundred twenty or two hundred twenty-one of the penal law. The court may only seal the records of the defendant's arrests, prosecutions and convictions when]~~ indictment, prosecution, conviction and plea agreement for that defendant's prior misdemeanors. The court may seal the records of the defendant's prior arrest, indictment, prosecution, conviction or plea agreement when:

(a) the sentencing court has requested and received from the division of criminal justice services or the Federal Bureau of Investigation a fingerprint based criminal history record of the defendant, including any sealed or suppressed information. The division of criminal justice services shall also include a criminal history report, if any, from the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding any criminal history information that occurred in other jurisdictions. The division is hereby authorized to receive such information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation for this purpose. The parties shall be permitted to examine these records;

(b) the defendant or court has identified the misdemeanor conviction or convictions for which relief may be granted; and

(c) the court has received documentation that the sentences imposed on the eligible misdemeanor convictions have been completed, or if no such documentation is reasonably available, a sworn affidavit that the sentences imposed on the prior misdemeanors have been completed~~], and~~

~~(d) the court has notified the district attorney of each jurisdiction in which the defendant has been convicted of an offense with respect to which sealing is sought, and the court or courts of record for such offenses, that the court is considering sealing the records of the defendant's eligible misdemeanor convictions. Both the district attorney and the court shall be given a reasonable opportunity, which shall not be less than thirty days, in which to comment and submit materials to aid the court in making such a determination].~~

§ 3. Subdivision 3 of section 160.58 of the criminal procedure law, as added by section 3 of part AAA of chapter 56 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

3. At the request of the defendant or the district attorney of a county in which the defendant committed a crime that is the subject of the sealing application, the court ~~[may]~~ shall conduct a hearing to consider and review any relevant evidence offered by either party that would aid the court in its decision whether to seal the records of the defendant's arrests, prosecutions and convictions. In making such ~~[a]~~ determination, the court shall consider ~~[any relevant factors, including but not limited to]~~ the following factors: (i) ~~[the circumstances and seriousness of the offense or offenses that resulted in the conviction or convictions,~~ (ii) ~~the character of the defendant, including his or her completion of the judicially sanctioned treatment program as described in subdivision one of this section,~~ (iii) ~~the defendant's criminal history, and~~ (iv) ~~the impact of sealing the defendant's records upon his or her rehabilitation and his or her successful and productive reentry and reintegration into society, and on public safety]~~ whether the defendant completed the judicially sanctioned treatment program as described in subdivision one of this section; and (ii) the impact of sealing the defendant's records upon his or her ability to seek and maintain employment and successfully integrate into society.

§ 4. Subdivision 8 of section 160.58 of the criminal procedure law, as added by section 3 of part AAA of chapter 56 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

8. If, subsequent to the sealing of records pursuant to this subdivision, the person who is the subject of such records is arrested for or formally charged with any misdemeanor or felony offense, such records shall be unsealed immediately and remain unsealed; provided, however, that if such new misdemeanor or felony arrest results in a termination in favor of the accused as defined in subdivision three of section 160.50 of this article or by conviction for a non criminal offense as described in section 160.55 of this article, such unsealed records shall be ~~[conditionally]~~ sealed pursuant to this section.

§ 5. Subdivision 2 of section 170.55 of the criminal procedure law, as amended by chapter 222 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:

2. An adjournment in contemplation of dismissal is an adjournment of the action without date ordered ~~[with a view to ultimate]~~ intended for the dismissal of the accusatory instrument in furtherance of justice. Upon issuing such an order, the court must release the defendant on his own recognizance. ~~[Upon application of the people, made at any time not more than six months, or in the case of a family offense as defined in subdivision one of section 530.11 of this chapter, one year, after the issuance of such order, the court may restore the case to the calendar upon a determination that dismissal of the accusatory instrument would not be in furtherance of justice, and the action must thereupon proceed. If the case is not so restored within such six months or one year period, the accusatory instrument is, at the expiration of such period, deemed to have been dismissed by the court in furtherance of justice.]~~ At any time prior to dismissal the court may modify the conditions or extend or reduce the term of adjournment, except that the total period of adjournment shall not exceed ninety days. Upon violation of any condition fixed by the court, the court shall revoke its order and restore the case to the calendar and the prosecution may proceed. If the case is not so restored to the calendar during the period fixed by the court, the accusatory instrument is, at the expiration of such period, deemed to have been dismissed. This section does not apply to family offense matters as defined in subdivision one of section 530.11 of this chapter.

§ 6. Section 170.56 of the criminal procedure law, as added by chapter 1042 of the laws of 1971, subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 360 of the laws of 1977 and subdivision 3 as amended by chapter 905 of the laws of 1977, is amended to read as follows:

§ 170.56 Adjournment in contemplation of dismissal in cases involving marihuana.

1. Upon or after arraignment in a local criminal court upon an information, a prosecutor's information or a misdemeanor complaint, where the sole remaining count or counts charge a violation or violations of section 221.05, 221.10, 221.15, 221.35 or 221.40 of the penal law and before the entry of a plea of guilty thereto or commencement of a trial thereof, the court, upon motion of a defendant, may order that all proceedings be suspended and the action adjourned in contemplation of dismissal, or upon a finding that adjournment would not be necessary ~~[or appropriate]~~ and the setting forth in the record of the reasons for such findings, may dismiss in furtherance of justice the accusatory instrument~~[, provided, however, that the court may not order such adjournment in contemplation of dismissal or dismiss the accusatory instrument if~~

~~(a) the defendant has previously been granted such adjournment in contemplation of dismissal, or (b) the defendant has previously been granted a dismissal under this section, or (c) the defendant has previously been convicted of any offense involving controlled substances, or (d) the defendant has previously been convicted of a crime and the district attorney does not consent or (e) the defendant has previously been adjudicated a youthful offender on the basis of any act or acts involving controlled substances and the district attorney does not consent~~].

2. ~~[Upon ordering the action adjourned in contemplation of dismissal, the court must set and specify such conditions for the adjournment as may be appropriate, and such conditions may include placing the defendant under the supervision of any public or private agency. At any time prior to dismissal the court may modify the conditions or extend or reduce the term of the adjournment, except that the total period of adjournment shall not exceed twelve months. Upon violation of any condition fixed by the court, the court may revoke its order and restore the case to the calendar and the prosecution thereupon must proceed. If the case is not so restored to the calendar during the period fixed by the court, the accusatory instrument is, at the expiration of such period, deemed to have been dismissed in the furtherance of justice.]~~ An adjournment in contemplation of dismissal is an adjournment of the action without date ordered intended for the dismissal of the accusatory instrument in furtherance of justice. Upon issuing such an order, the court must release the defendant on his own recognizance. At any time prior to dismissal the court may modify the conditions or extend or reduce the term of adjournment, except that the total period of adjournment shall not exceed ninety days. Upon violation of any condition fixed by the court, the court shall revoke its order and restore the case to the calendar and the prosecution may proceed. If the case is not so restored to the calendar during the period fixed by the court, the accusatory instrument is, at the expiration of such period, deemed to have been dismissed. This section does not apply to family offense matters as defined in subdivision one of section 530.11 of this chapter.

3. Upon or after dismissal of such charges against a defendant ~~[not previously convicted of a crime,~~ the court shall order that all official records ~~[and papers, relating to the defendant's arrest and prosecution],~~ documents, pleadings, and records exchanged as part of discovery relating to the arrest, indictment, prosecution, conviction or plea agreement, whether on file with the court, a police agency, or the New York state division of criminal justice services, be sealed and, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (d) of subdivision one of section 160.50 of this chapter, not made available to any person or public or private agency; except, ~~[such records shall be made available under order of a court for the purpose of determining whether, in subsequent proceedings, such person qualifies under this section for a dismissal or adjournment in contemplation of dismissal of the accusatory instrument]~~ by subsequent court order or as required by subdivision eight of section 160.58 of this title.

4. Upon the granting of an order pursuant to subdivision three of this section, the arrest and prosecution shall be deemed a nullity and the defendant shall be restored, in contemplation of law, to the status he occupied before his arrest and prosecution.

§ 7. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall have become a law.