

# STATE OF NEW YORK

3104--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 27, 2023

Introduced by Sen. BRISPORT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Children and Families -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Judiciary -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the family court act, in relation to the confidentiality and expungement of records in juvenile delinquency cases in the family court

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

1 Section 1. The family court act is amended by adding a new section  
2 301.5 to read as follows:

3 § 301.5. Confidentiality of juvenile delinquency records. 1. "Juvenile  
4 delinquency record" refers to the records, reports and information main-  
5 tained in any form, including electronic, by the family court, juvenile  
6 probation, the presentment agency, state criminal justice information  
7 systems, law enforcement agencies or any other public servant document-  
8 ing the juvenile's contact with the juvenile justice system from the  
9 time of investigation and arrest.

10 2. The following records, reports, and information acquired or gener-  
11 ated in family court, juvenile probation or by arrests concerning juve-  
12 niles shall be confidential and shall not be open to inspection nor  
13 released to any person, department, agency, or entity:

14 (a) Juvenile legal files, including but not limited to:

15 (i) Juvenile delinquency petitions;

16 (ii) Adolescent offender petitions if the action is transferred or  
17 removed to family court pursuant to article seven hundred twenty-two of  
18 the criminal procedure law;

19 (iii) Juvenile offender petitions if the action is removed to family  
20 court pursuant to article seven hundred twenty-five of the criminal  
21 procedure law;

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

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1 (iv) Predisposition reports, including probation investigations and  
2 diagnostic assessments;  
3 (v) Risk assessment instruments;  
4 (vi) Notices;  
5 (vii) Motions;  
6 (viii) Legal memoranda; and  
7 (ix) Orders.

8 (b) Law enforcement records, including but not limited to:

9 (i) Fingerprints, photographs, palmprints;

10 (ii) DNA samples;

11 (iii) Arrest records;

12 (iv) Demographic information that identifies a juvenile or the family  
13 of a juvenile; and

14 (v) State criminal justice information system records.

15 (c) Personal social records, including but not limited to:

16 (i) Records of juvenile probation officers;

17 (ii) Medical records;

18 (iii) Psychiatric or psychological records;

19 (iv) Reports of preliminary inquiries and predisposition reports;

20 (v) Supervision records;

21 (vi) Birth certificates;

22 (vii) Individualized service plans;

23 (viii) Detention records; and

24 (ix) Demographic information that identifies a juvenile or the family  
25 of a juvenile.

26 3. Upon a written petition and a finding of compelling interest, and  
27 in accordance with the conditions below, the juvenile court may order  
28 release of the juvenile name and designated portions of the records,  
29 reports, and information described in paragraphs (a) through (c) of  
30 subdivision two of this section to another person, department, entity,  
31 or agency.

32 (a) The requesting party shall provide notice to the juvenile and his  
33 or her attorney of the petition and an opportunity to object.

34 (b) The court shall hold a hearing on the petition if requested by the  
35 petitioner or juvenile.

36 (c) The petition filed with the court and served on the juvenile and  
37 his or her attorney shall state the following:

38 (i) The reason the person, department, entity, or agency is requesting  
39 the information;

40 (ii) The use to be made of the information, including any intended  
41 re-disclosure; and

42 (iii) The names of those persons within the department, entity, or  
43 agency who will have access to the information.

44 (d) In ruling on the petition, the court shall consider the privacy  
45 interests of the juvenile and potential risk of harm to the juvenile,  
46 whether a compelling reason exists for release of the information, and  
47 whether the release is necessary for the protection of an important  
48 interest.

49 (e) The court may impose restrictions on the use and re-disclosure of  
50 the released information.

51 4. An officer of the court with whom the proceedings pursuant to this  
52 article are filed, or his or her clerk, either before or after the  
53 conclusion of such proceedings, shall not permit a copy of any of the  
54 documents relating to such proceedings to be taken or seen by any person  
55 other than the respondent, the attorney for the child, an attorney

1 employed by the presentment agency, or an official employed by the  
2 probation service, except by order of the court.

3 5. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision three of this  
4 section, an officer of the court, or his or her clerk, shall not permit  
5 access of any person to a record which has been expunged pursuant to  
6 section 375.1 or section 375.2 of this article.

7 6. A violation of this section shall create a cause of action for  
8 civil damages of up to one thousand dollars.

9 § 2. The section heading and subdivisions 1 and 2 of section 354.1 of  
10 the family court act, the section heading as added by chapter 920 of the  
11 laws of 1982 and subdivisions 1 and 2 as amended by chapter 810 of the  
12 laws of 2021, are amended and two new subdivisions 8 and 9 are added to  
13 read as follows:

14 Retention and destruction of fingerprints; DNA and other genetic mate-  
15 rial of persons alleged to be juvenile delinquents. 1. If a person  
16 whose fingerprints, palmprints or photographs were taken pursuant to  
17 section 306.1 of this article or who was initially fingerprinted as a  
18 juvenile or adolescent offender and the action is subsequently removed  
19 to a family court pursuant to article seven hundred twenty-five or arti-  
20 cle seven hundred twenty-two of the criminal procedure law is adjudi-  
21 cated to be a juvenile delinquent for a felony, the family court shall  
22 forward or cause to be forwarded to the division of criminal justice  
23 services notification of such adjudication and such related information  
24 as may be required by such division, provided, however, in the case of a  
25 person twelve years of age such notification shall be provided only if  
26 the act upon which the adjudication is based would constitute a class A  
27 or B felony.

28 2. If a person whose fingerprints, palmprints or photographs were  
29 taken pursuant to section 306.1 of this article or who was initially  
30 fingerprinted as a juvenile or adolescent offender and the action is  
31 subsequently removed to family court pursuant to article seven hundred  
32 twenty-five or article seven hundred twenty-two of the criminal proce-  
33 dure law has had all petitions disposed of by the family court in any  
34 manner other than an adjudication of juvenile delinquency for a felony,  
35 but in the case of acts committed when such person was twelve years of  
36 age [~~which would constitute~~] other than an adjudication of juvenile  
37 delinquency for a class A or B felony [~~only~~], all such fingerprints,  
38 palmprints, photographs, and copies thereof, and all information relat-  
39 ing to such allegations obtained by the division of criminal justice  
40 services pursuant to section 306.1 of this article shall be destroyed  
41 forthwith. The clerk of the court shall notify the commissioner of the  
42 division of criminal justice services and the heads of all police  
43 departments and law enforcement agencies having copies of such records,  
44 who shall destroy such records without unnecessary delay.

45 8. When a person whose fingerprints, palmprints or photographs were  
46 taken pursuant to section 306.1 of this article and who is subsequently  
47 adjudicated a juvenile delinquent for a felony, but in the case of acts  
48 committed when such person was twelve years of age other than an adjudi-  
49 cation of juvenile delinquency for a class A or B felony, and the case  
50 is expunged pursuant to section 375.1 or section 375.2 of this article,  
51 all fingerprints, palmprints, photographs, and related information and  
52 copies thereof obtained pursuant to section 306.1 of this article in the  
53 possession of the division of criminal justice services, any police  
54 department, law enforcement agency or any other agency shall be  
55 destroyed forthwith. The division of criminal justice services shall  
56 notify the agency or agencies which forwarded fingerprints to such divi-

1 sion pursuant to section 306.1 of this article of their obligation to  
2 destroy those records in their possession.

3 9. If any DNA or other genetic material was obtained from a juvenile  
4 by any law enforcement officer or other public servant acting in the  
5 course of his or her official duties or by a state or local government  
6 entity, other than DNA or other genetic material obtained in connection  
7 with a parentage or related proceeding or a juvenile offender or adoles-  
8 cent offender proceeding not removed to the family court, such material  
9 and any analyses or reports regarding such material, as well as any  
10 record included in any DNA identification index maintained by any  
11 government entity, shall be expunged forthwith. Any DNA or other genetic  
12 material obtained in connection with a parentage proceeding related  
13 thereto or any juvenile offender or adolescent offender proceeding may  
14 be used only in connection with such proceeding and may not be disclosed  
15 to or utilized by any law enforcement agency or admitted into evidence  
16 in any proceeding under this article.

17 § 3. Section 375.1 of the family court act, as added by chapter 920  
18 of the laws of 1982, subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 41 of the laws  
19 of 2010, paragraphs (d), (f) and (h) of subdivision 2 and subdivision 3  
20 as amended and paragraph (i) of subdivision 2 as added by chapter 398 of  
21 the laws of 1983, is amended to read as follows:

22 § 375.1. Order upon termination of a delinquency action in favor of  
23 the respondent. 1. Upon termination of a delinquency proceeding against  
24 a respondent in favor of such respondent, unless the presentment agency  
25 upon written motion with not less than eight days notice to such  
26 respondent demonstrates to the satisfaction of the court that the inter-  
27 ests of justice require otherwise or the court on its own motion with  
28 not less than eight days notice to such respondent determines that the  
29 interest of justice require otherwise and states the reason for such  
30 determination on the record, the clerk of the court shall immediately  
31 notify the counsel for the child, the director of the appropriate  
32 presentment agency, and the heads of the appropriate probation depart-  
33 ment and police department or other law enforcement agency, that the  
34 proceeding has terminated in favor of the respondent and, unless the  
35 court has directed otherwise, that the records of such action or  
36 proceeding, other than those destroyed pursuant to section 354.1 of this  
37 act, shall be [~~sealed~~] expunged. Upon receipt of such notification all  
38 official records and papers, including judgments and orders of the  
39 court, but not including public court decisions or opinions or records  
40 and briefs on appeal, relating to the arrest, the prosecution and the  
41 probation service proceedings, including all duplicates or copies there-  
42 of, on file with the court, police agency, probation service and  
43 presentment agency shall be [~~sealed~~] expunged, and not made available to  
44 any person or public or private agency; provided, however, that the  
45 probation service may retain a copy of the record under seal solely in  
46 order to comply with subdivision four of section 308.1 of this article  
47 until the respondent's eighteenth birthday or the conclusion of their  
48 probation supervision, at which time all records shall be expunged.  
49 Such records shall remain sealed during the pendency of any motion made  
50 pursuant to this subdivision.

51 2. The effect of having a record expunged, whether pursuant to subdi-  
52 vision one of this section or pursuant to section 375.2 of this part,  
53 shall be that all juvenile records shall be destroyed and thereafter no  
54 person or agency shall be allowed to release any information concerning  
55 such record, except as provided by this section. The court, juvenile  
56 probation office, law enforcement offices, presentment agency and any

1 other relevant agency shall reply to an inquiry that no juvenile record  
2 exists with respect to the person whose record was expunged.

3 3. With respect to the matter in which the record was expunged and any  
4 preceding action resulting from the same alleged conduct, the person who  
5 is the subject of the record and the person's parent shall not be held  
6 thereafter under any provision of law to be guilty of perjury or other-  
7 wise giving a false statement by reason of the person's failure to  
8 recite or acknowledge such record.

9 4. For the purposes of subdivision one of this section, a delinquency  
10 proceeding shall be considered terminated in favor of a respondent  
11 where:

12 (a) the petition is withdrawn; or

13 (b) the petition is dismissed under section 315.1 or 315.2 of this  
14 article and the presentment agency has not appealed from such order or  
15 the determination of an appeal or appeals from such order has been  
16 against the presentment agency; or

17 (c) the petition has been deemed to have been dismissed under section  
18 315.3 and the presentment agency has not appealed from such order or the  
19 determination of an appeal or appeals from such order has been against  
20 the presentment agency; provided, however, that an agreement to prevent  
21 expungement under this section may not be required as a condition of an  
22 adjournment in contemplation of dismissal under section 315.3 of this  
23 article; or

24 (d) the petition is dismissed without prejudice under subdivision four  
25 of section 325.3 of this article and the presentment agency has not  
26 appealed from such order or the determination of an appeal or appeals  
27 from such order has been against the presentment agency; or

28 (e) the entire petition has been dismissed under subdivision two of  
29 section 345.1 of this article; or

30 (f) the petition is dismissed under subdivision two of section 352.1  
31 of this part; or

32 (g) prior to the filing of a petition, the probation department has  
33 adjusted the case or terminated the case without adjustment; or

34 (h) prior to the filing of a petition the presentment agency chooses  
35 not to proceed to petition; or

36 (i) the petition is dismissed pursuant to a motion made in accordance  
37 with subdivision eight, nine or ten of section 332.1 of this article; or

38 (j) following an arrest, the arresting police agency, prior to the  
39 filing of an accusatory instrument in court, elects not to proceed  
40 further; or

41 (k) the respondent was adjudicated for an act that if committed by an  
42 adult would constitute a crime under former sections 221.15, 221.20,  
43 221.35, 221.40 or 240.37 or section 240.36 of the penal law; or

44 (l) the respondent was adjudicated for an act that was committed when  
45 the respondent was under the age of twelve, other than the acts enumer-  
46 ated in subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (a) of subdivision one of  
47 section 301.2 of this article.

48 5. When a person was previously adjudicated delinquent as described in  
49 paragraph (k) or (l) of subdivision four of this section, the chief  
50 administrative judge of the state of New York shall, in accordance with  
51 this section, automatically vacate, dismiss, and expunge such adjudi-  
52 cation, and the office of court administration shall immediately notify  
53 the state division of criminal justice services, directing that such  
54 agency notify all relevant police and law enforcement agencies of their  
55 duty to destroy all records related to such case.

1     ~~[3-]~~ 6. Records sealed pursuant to subdivision one shall be made  
2 available to the respondent or his designated agent and the records and  
3 papers of a probation service shall be available to any probation  
4 service for the purpose of complying with subdivision four of section  
5 308.1 of this article.

6     ~~[4-]~~ 7. If prior to the filing of a petition the presentment agency  
7 elects not to commence a delinquency action it shall serve a certifi-  
8 cation of such disposition upon the appropriate probation service and  
9 the appropriate police department or law enforcement agency, which, upon  
10 receipt ~~[thereto]~~ thereof, shall comply with the provision of subdivi-  
11 sion one of this section in the same manner as is required with respect  
12 to an order of the court.

13     ~~[5-]~~ 8. If the probation service adjusts a delinquency case it shall  
14 serve a certification of such disposition upon the appropriate police  
15 department or law enforcement agency which, upon receipt thereof, shall  
16 comply with the provisions of subdivision one of this section in the  
17 same manner as is required thereunder with respect to an order of a  
18 court.

19     ~~[6-]~~ 9. A respondent in whose favor a delinquency proceeding was  
20 terminated prior to the effective date of this section may upon motion  
21 apply to the court, upon not less than twenty days notice to the  
22 presentment agency, for an order granting him the relief set forth in  
23 subdivision one, and such order shall be granted unless the presentment  
24 agency demonstrates to the satisfaction of the court that the interests  
25 of justice require otherwise. A respondent in whose favor a delinquency  
26 action or proceeding was terminated as defined by subdivisions four and  
27 five, prior to the effective date of this section, may apply to the  
28 appropriate presentment agency or probation service for a certification  
29 as described in such subdivisions granting him the relief set forth  
30 therein and such certification shall be granted by such presentment  
31 agency or probation service.

32     10. The chief administrative judge of the state of New York shall, in  
33 accordance with this section, automatically expunge the juvenile record  
34 of a respondent in whose favor a delinquency proceeding was terminated  
35 prior to the effective date of this subdivision, and the office of court  
36 administration shall immediately notify the state division of criminal  
37 justice services, directing that such agency notify all relevant police  
38 and law enforcement agencies of their duty to destroy all records  
39 related to such case.

40     § 4. Section 375.2 of the family court act, as added by chapter 920 of  
41 the laws of 1982, subdivision 6 as amended by section 77 of part WWW of  
42 chapter 59 of the laws of 2017, and subdivision 7 as added by chapter  
43 813 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

44     § 375.2. Motion to ~~[seal]~~ expunge and automatic expungement after a  
45 finding. 1. If an action has resulted in a finding of delinquency pursu-  
46 ant to subdivision one of section 352.1 of this article, ~~[other than a~~  
47 ~~finding that the respondent committed a designated felony act,~~] the  
48 court may, in the interest of justice and upon motion of the respondent,  
49 order the ~~[sealing]~~ expungement of appropriate records pursuant to  
50 subdivision one of section 375.1 of this part.

51     2. Such motion must be in writing and may be filed at any time subse-  
52 quent to the ~~[entering of such finding]~~ conclusion of the period of any  
53 disposition, including, but not limited to, the expiration of the period  
54 of placement, conditional discharge, order of protection, order of  
55 restitution, order of probation or any extension thereof. Notice of such  
56 motion shall be served upon the presentment agency not less than eight

1 days prior to the return date of the motion. Answering affidavits shall  
2 be served at least two days before such time. The court shall rule on  
3 the expungement after considering the following:

- 4 (a) the best interests of the person;
- 5 (b) the age of the person during his or her contact with the family  
6 court or law enforcement agency;
- 7 (c) the nature of the offense;
- 8 (d) the disposition of the case;
- 9 (e) the manner in which the person participated in any court ordered  
10 rehabilitative programming or supervised services;
- 11 (f) the time during which the person has been without contact with the  
12 juvenile court;
- 13 (g) whether the person has any subsequent criminal convictions; and
- 14 (h) the adverse consequences the person will suffer as a result of  
15 retention of his or her record.

16 3. The court shall state on the record its reasons for granting or  
17 denying the motion.

18 4. [~~If such motion is denied, it may not be renewed for a period of~~  
19 ~~one year, unless the order of denial permits renewal at an earlier time.~~  
20 ~~5-~~] The court shall not order the [~~sealing~~] expungement of any record  
21 except as prescribed by this section or section 375.1 of this part.

22 [~~6. Such a motion cannot be filed until the respondent's sixteenth~~  
23 ~~birthday, or, commencing October first, two thousand eighteen, the~~  
24 ~~respondent's seventeenth birthday, or commencing October first, two~~  
25 ~~thousand nineteen, the respondent's eighteenth birthday.~~

26 ~~7-~~] 5. Where an order of fact-finding has been issued pursuant to  
27 subdivision one of section 345.1 of this article that includes solely a  
28 violation as defined in subdivision three of section 10.00 of the penal  
29 law committed by a juvenile sixteen years of age or, commencing on Octo-  
30 ber first, two thousand nineteen, seventeen years of age, the records  
31 shall be [~~sealed~~] expunged automatically at the expiration, as applica-  
32 ble, of a successful period of an adjustment, adjournment in contem-  
33 plation of dismissal or conditional discharge.

34 6. If an action has resulted in a finding of delinquency pursuant to  
35 subdivision one of section 352.1 of this article, all records of such  
36 action or proceeding not already expunged shall be automatically  
37 expunged by the court upon the attainment of the respondent's twenty-  
38 first birthday.

39 7. If expungement is obtained automatically or by motion, the clerk of  
40 the court shall notify the commissioner of the division of criminal  
41 justice services, the attorney for the child, the director of the appro-  
42 priate presentment agency, the head of the appropriate probation depart-  
43 ment, the heads of all police departments and law enforcement agencies  
44 and all other agencies named in the court files, including other state  
45 agencies which may have records of the juvenile's adjudication,  
46 detention, and treatment facilities, who shall destroy such records  
47 without unnecessary delay. Each agency shall affirm in an affidavit of  
48 expungement to the court that it destroyed all paper and electronic  
49 copies of the expunged records. The division of criminal justice  
50 services shall notify the agency or agencies which forwarded any juve-  
51 nil records of their obligation to destroy those records in their  
52 possession.

53 8. An agreement by the respondent to prevent expungement under this  
54 section may not be a condition for the respondent to enter an admission  
55 to a reduced charge pursuant to section 321.3 of this article.

1 § 5. Section 381.2 of the family court act, as added by chapter 920 of  
2 the laws of 1982, subdivision 2 as amended by chapter 926 of the laws of  
3 1982, is amended to read as follows:

4 § 381.2. Use of records in other courts. 1. Neither the fact that a  
5 person was before the family court under this article for a hearing nor  
6 any confession, admission or statement made by him or her to the court  
7 or to any officer thereof in any stage of the proceeding is admissible  
8 as evidence against him or her or his or her interests, in any other  
9 court.

10 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision one of this section,  
11 another court, in imposing sentence upon an adult after conviction may  
12 receive and consider the records and information on file with the family  
13 court, unless such records and information have been [~~sealed~~] expunged  
14 pursuant to section 375.1 or section 375.2 of this article.

15 § 6. Section 381.3 of the family court act, as added by chapter 920 of  
16 the laws of 1982, paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 as amended by chapter  
17 926 of the laws of 1982, is amended to read as follows:

18 § 381.3. Use of [~~police~~] law enforcement records. 1. All [~~police~~] law  
19 enforcement records relating to the arrest, detention, apprehension,  
20 and disposition of any person under this article shall be kept in files  
21 separate and apart from the arrests of adults and shall be withheld from  
22 public inspection.

23 2. All law enforcement records relating to the arrest, detention,  
24 apprehension, and disposition of any juveniles shall be destroyed forth-  
25 with upon the occurrence of one of the following:

26 (a) After the arrest of such person, the arresting law enforcement  
27 agency, prior to the filing of an accusatory instrument in court, elects  
28 not to proceed further;

29 (b) Prior to the filing of a petition, the presentment agency elects  
30 not to commence a delinquency action;

31 (c) Prior to the filing of a petition, the probation department has  
32 adjusted the case or terminated the case without adjustment;

33 (d) Termination of the delinquency action in favor of a respondent  
34 pursuant to section 375.1 of this article; or

35 (e) Following a finding of delinquency, sealing or expungement is  
36 ordered pursuant to section 375.1 or 375.2 of this article.

37 3. Law enforcement or other public officials may not access or  
38 disclose confidential juvenile records without a court order following  
39 notice and a hearing pursuant to subdivision four of section 306.1 of  
40 this article.

41 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision [~~one~~] three of this  
42 section, the family court in the county in which the petition was adju-  
43 dicated may, upon motion and for good cause shown, order such records  
44 open:

45 (a) to the respondent or his or her parent or person responsible for  
46 his or her care; or

47 (b) if the respondent is subsequently convicted of a crime, to a judge  
48 of the court in which he was convicted, unless such record has been  
49 [~~sealed~~] expunged pursuant to section 375.1 or section 375.2 of this  
50 article.

51 [~~3-~~] 5. An order issued under subdivision [~~two~~] four of this section  
52 must be in writing.

53 6. For the purposes of this section, "records" shall include law  
54 enforcement files, reports, exhibits or other material which contains  
55 information relating to contact with any law enforcement agency and also  
56 includes electronic information recorded and stored stemming from an



1 arrest or subsequent interrogations and interviews, and shall also apply  
2 to any information that is kept manually, through the use of electronic  
3 data processing equipment, through electronic recording or by any other  
4 means by a law enforcement agency of the state of New York.

5 7. Violation of this section shall create a cause of action for civil  
6 damages up to one thousand dollars.

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