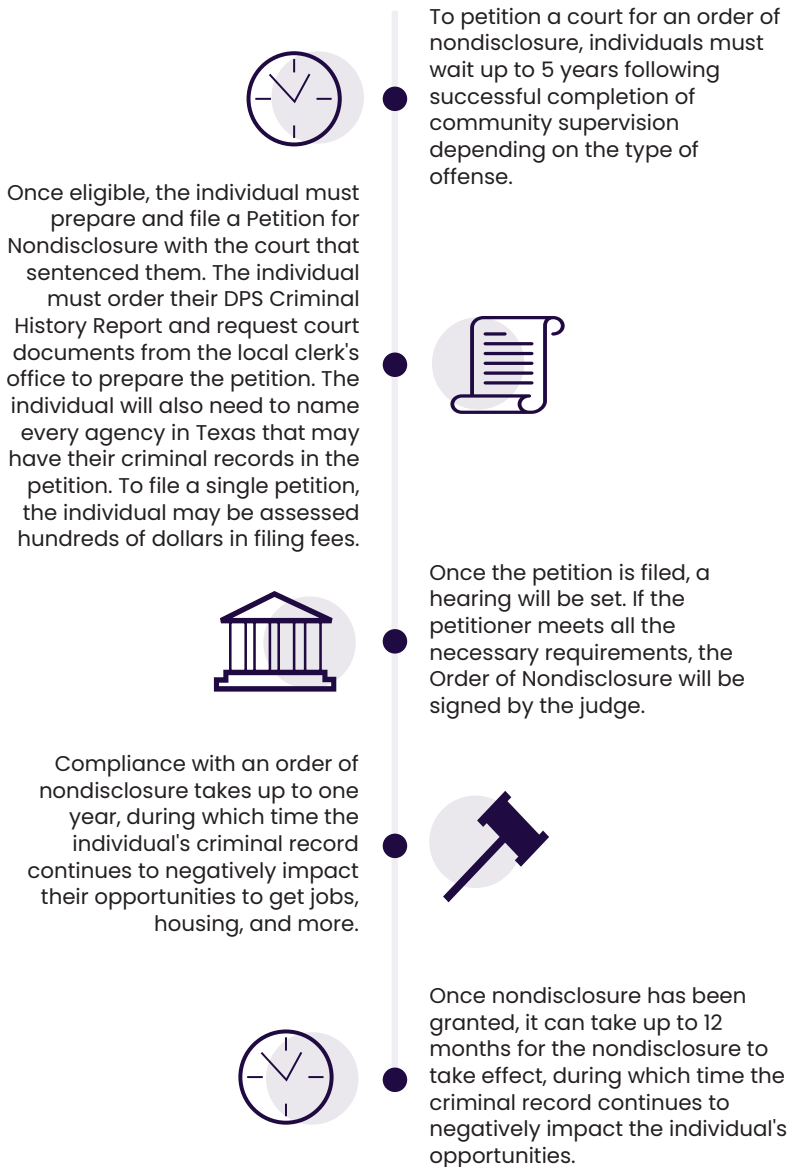# Clean Slate Texas

Streamlining Second Chances

Texas law provides for the sealing of a person's criminal arrest records under certain circumstances through a process called nondisclosure. However, this process is costly and complex, rendering record clearing services inaccessible even to those who qualify.

Clean Slate is a package of bills that would provide some record sealing relief **automatically** and expand eligibility, making record clearing more accessible to all Texans.

The path to record sealing under current law is extremely difficult. Automation would change this.

To petition a court for an order of nondisclosure, individuals must wait up to 5 years following successful completion of community supervision depending on the type of offense.

Once eligible, the individual must prepare and file a Petition for Nondisclosure with the court that sentenced them. The individual must order their DPS Criminal History Report and request court documents from the local clerk's office to prepare the petition. The individual will also need to name every agency in Texas that may have their criminal records in the petition. To file a single petition, the individual may be assessed hundreds of dollars in filing fees.

Once the petition is filed, a hearing will be set. If the petitioner meets all the necessary requirements, the Order of Nondisclosure will be signed by the judge.

Compliance with an order of nondisclosure takes up to one year, during which time the individual's criminal record continues to negatively impact their opportunities to get jobs, housing, and more.

Once nondisclosure has been granted, it can take up to 12 months for the nondisclosure to take effect, during which time the criminal record continues to negatively impact the individual's opportunities.

What is Clean Slate?

Clean Slate seeks to automate the sealing of criminal records under Gov. Code § 411.072.

Clean Slate seeks to eliminate all fees and forms associated with this process, reducing both the government's workload and the burden on the person entitled to relief.

Clean Slate seeks to further expand eligibility for record sealing in Texas.

Millions of Texans have prior arrest records. A criminal record creates barriers to housing, employment, public assistance, educational opportunities, and more. Unnecessary obstacles in the record clearing process are harmful.

Clean Slate seeks to reduce these barriers.