
SENATE BILL 5837

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Darneille, Nguyen, Hasegawa, Kuderer, and Saldaña

Read first time 02/06/19. Referred to Committee on Human Services,
Reentry & Rehabilitation.

1 AN ACT Relating to records eligible for regular sealing in
2 juvenile court; and amending RCW 13.50.260.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 13.50.260 and 2015 c 265 s 3 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1)(a) The court shall hold regular sealing hearings. During
7 these regular sealing hearings, the court shall administratively seal
8 an individual's juvenile record pursuant to the requirements of this
9 subsection unless the court receives an objection to sealing or the
10 court notes a compelling reason not to seal, in which case, the court
11 shall set a contested hearing to be conducted on the record to
12 address sealing. Although the juvenile record shall be sealed, the
13 social file may be available to any juvenile justice or care agency
14 when an investigation or case involving the juvenile subject of the
15 records is being prosecuted by the juvenile justice or care agency or
16 when the juvenile justice or care agency is assigned the
17 responsibility of supervising the juvenile. The contested hearing
18 shall be set no sooner than eighteen days after notice of the hearing
19 and the opportunity to object has been sent to the juvenile, the
20 victim, and juvenile's attorney. The juvenile respondent's presence
21 is not required at a sealing hearing pursuant to this subsection.

1 (b) At the disposition hearing of a juvenile offender, the court
2 shall schedule an administrative sealing hearing to take place during
3 the first regularly scheduled sealing hearing after the latest of the
4 following events that apply:

5 (i) The respondent's eighteenth birthday;

6 (ii) Anticipated completion of a respondent's probation, if
7 ordered;

8 (iii) Anticipated release from confinement at the juvenile
9 rehabilitation administration, or the completion of parole, if the
10 respondent is transferred to the juvenile rehabilitation
11 administration.

12 (c) A court shall enter a written order sealing an individual's
13 juvenile court record pursuant to this subsection if:

14 (i) One of the offenses for which the court has entered a
15 disposition is not at the time of commission of the offense:

16 (A) A most serious offense, as defined in RCW 9.94A.030; or

17 (B) A sex offense under chapter 9A.44 RCW; (~~(or~~

18 ~~(C) A drug offense, as defined in RCW 9.94A.030;~~) and

19 (ii) The respondent has completed the terms and conditions of
20 disposition, including affirmative conditions and has paid the full
21 amount of restitution owing to the individual victim named in the
22 restitution order, excluding restitution owed to any insurance
23 provider authorized under Title 48 RCW.

24 (d) Following a contested sealing hearing on the record after an
25 objection is made pursuant to (a) of this subsection, the court shall
26 enter a written order sealing the juvenile court record unless the
27 court determines that sealing is not appropriate.

28 (2) The court shall enter a written order immediately sealing the
29 official juvenile court record upon the acquittal after a fact
30 finding or upon the dismissal of charges with prejudice, subject to
31 the state's right, if any, to appeal the dismissal.

32 (3) If a juvenile court record has not already been sealed
33 pursuant to this section, in any case in which information has been
34 filed pursuant to RCW 13.40.100 or a complaint has been filed with
35 the prosecutor and referred for diversion pursuant to RCW 13.40.070,
36 the person who is the subject of the information or complaint may
37 file a motion with the court to have the court vacate its order and
38 findings, if any, and, subject to RCW 13.50.050(13), order the
39 sealing of the official juvenile court record, the social file, and
40 records of the court and of any other agency in the case.

1 (4) (a) The court shall grant any motion to seal records for class
2 A offenses made pursuant to subsection (3) of this section if:

3 (i) Since the last date of release from confinement, including
4 full-time residential treatment, if any, or entry of disposition, the
5 person has spent five consecutive years in the community without
6 committing any offense or crime that subsequently results in an
7 adjudication or conviction;

8 (ii) No proceeding is pending against the moving party seeking
9 the conviction of a juvenile offense or a criminal offense;

10 (iii) No proceeding is pending seeking the formation of a
11 diversion agreement with that person;

12 (iv) The person is no longer required to register as a sex
13 offender under RCW 9A.44.130 or has been relieved of the duty to
14 register under RCW 9A.44.143 if the person was convicted of a sex
15 offense;

16 (v) The person has not been convicted of rape in the first
17 degree, rape in the second degree, or indecent liberties that was
18 actually committed with forcible compulsion; and

19 (vi) The person has paid the full amount of restitution owing to
20 the individual victim named in the restitution order, excluding
21 restitution owed to any insurance provider authorized under Title 48
22 RCW.

23 (b) The court shall grant any motion to seal records for class B,
24 class C, gross misdemeanor, and misdemeanor offenses and diversions
25 made under subsection (3) of this section if:

26 (i) Since the date of last release from confinement, including
27 full-time residential treatment, if any, entry of disposition, or
28 completion of the diversion agreement, the person has spent two
29 consecutive years in the community without being convicted of any
30 offense or crime;

31 (ii) No proceeding is pending against the moving party seeking
32 the conviction of a juvenile offense or a criminal offense;

33 (iii) No proceeding is pending seeking the formation of a
34 diversion agreement with that person;

35 (iv) The person is no longer required to register as a sex
36 offender under RCW 9A.44.130 or has been relieved of the duty to
37 register under RCW 9A.44.143 if the person was convicted of a sex
38 offense; and

39 (v) The person has paid the full amount of restitution owing to
40 the individual victim named in the restitution order, excluding

1 restitution owed to any insurance provider authorized under Title 48
2 RCW.

3 (c) Notwithstanding the requirements in (a) or (b) of this
4 subsection, the court shall grant any motion to seal records of any
5 deferred disposition vacated under RCW 13.40.127(9) prior to June 7,
6 2012, if restitution has been paid and the person is eighteen years
7 of age or older at the time of the motion.

8 (5) The person making a motion pursuant to subsection (3) of this
9 section shall give reasonable notice of the motion to the prosecution
10 and to any person or agency whose records are sought to be sealed.

11 (6) (a) If the court enters a written order sealing the juvenile
12 court record pursuant to this section, it shall, subject to RCW
13 13.50.050(13), order sealed the official juvenile court record, the
14 social file, and other records relating to the case as are named in
15 the order. Thereafter, the proceedings in the case shall be treated
16 as if they never occurred, and the subject of the records may reply
17 accordingly to any inquiry about the events, records of which are
18 sealed. Any agency shall reply to any inquiry concerning confidential
19 or sealed records that records are confidential, and no information
20 can be given about the existence or nonexistence of records
21 concerning an individual.

22 (b) In the event the subject of the juvenile records receives a
23 full and unconditional pardon, the proceedings in the matter upon
24 which the pardon has been granted shall be treated as if they never
25 occurred, and the subject of the records may reply accordingly to any
26 inquiry about the events upon which the pardon was received. Any
27 agency shall reply to any inquiry concerning the records pertaining
28 to the events for which the subject received a pardon that records
29 are confidential, and no information can be given about the existence
30 or nonexistence of records concerning an individual.

31 (c) Effective July 1, 2019, the department of licensing may
32 release information related to records the court has ordered sealed
33 only to the extent necessary to comply with federal law and
34 regulation.

35 (7) Inspection of the files and records included in the order to
36 seal may thereafter be permitted only by order of the court upon
37 motion made by the person who is the subject of the information or
38 complaint, except as otherwise provided in RCW 13.50.010(8) and
39 13.50.050(13).

1 (8) (a) Any adjudication of a juvenile offense or a crime
2 subsequent to sealing has the effect of nullifying a sealing order;
3 however, the court may order the juvenile court record resealed upon
4 disposition of the subsequent matter if the case meets the sealing
5 criteria under this section and the court record has not previously
6 been resealed.

7 (b) Any charging of an adult felony subsequent to the sealing has
8 the effect of nullifying the sealing order.

9 (c) The administrative office of the courts shall ensure that the
10 superior court judicial information system provides prosecutors
11 access to information on the existence of sealed juvenile records.

12 (d) The Washington state patrol shall ensure that the Washington
13 state identification system provides criminal justice agencies access
14 to sealed juvenile records information.

15 (9) If the juvenile court record has been sealed pursuant to this
16 section, the record of an employee is not admissible in an action for
17 liability against the employer based on the former juvenile
18 offender's conduct to show that the employer knew or should have
19 known of the juvenile record of the employee. The record may be
20 admissible, however, if a background check conducted or authorized by
21 the employer contained the information in the sealed record.

22 (10) County clerks may interact or correspond with the
23 respondent, his or her parents, and any holders of potential assets
24 or wages of the respondent for the purposes of collecting an
25 outstanding legal financial obligation after juvenile court records
26 have been sealed pursuant to this section.

27 (11) Persons and agencies that obtain sealed juvenile records
28 information pursuant to this section may communicate about this
29 information with the respondent, but may not disseminate or be
30 compelled to release the information to any person or agency not
31 specifically granted access to sealed juvenile records in this
32 section.

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