



OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

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Press Contact:
Bryant Payne (312) 603-5690
bdpayne@cookcountycourt.com

The Clerk of the Circuit Court, the State's Attorney, the Public Defender and Other Agencies to Host a Full Service, Community-Based, Adult and Juvenile Expungement Summit at Chicago Vocational Career Academy

CHICAGO (May 8, 2007) – The Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County; the Honorable Richard Devine, State's Attorney of Cook County; Edwin Burnette, Cook County Public Defender, and an array of governmental, legal, community and religious organizations and agencies, are sponsoring an Adult and Juvenile Expungement Summit at Chicago Vocational Career Academy, 2100 E. 87th Street, on Saturday, June 9, 2007; registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

This full-service, community-based Expungement Summit has been extremely successful for the last two years, attracting 2,500 to 3,000 people per year who sought to improve their ability to obtain employment by having expungeable offenses removed from their criminal histories. Previous summits were held at Austin and DuSable High Schools. **More participants are expected to attend the Expungement Summit this year because the Clerk's Office is mailing out notification to people with closed cases that potentially qualify for expungement or sealing.**

At the summit, volunteer attorneys assist participants with the preparation of applications for the filing of petitions that qualify for expungement and sealing. The State's Attorney, Chicago Police Department and Illinois State Police holds information sessions on their expungement petition review process. **Additionally, a new feature this year will be sessions on Criminal and Financial Identity Theft presented by the State Appellate Defender (criminal) and the Illinois Attorney General (financial).**

Individuals who do not qualify for expungement may attend a panel discussion, conducted by the Illinois Prisoner Review Board, to learn about Certificates of Good Conduct and Relief from Disabilities, as well as how to prepare letters for clemency and/or pardons from the governor.

Other agencies will provide information on employment, job training, health care, housing, voter registration and other services for ex-offenders. The Illinois Department of Employment Security will hold an information session on job placement for ex-offenders.

To have a petition filed on site, the petitioner must bring a rap sheet (criminal history) and filing fees, which may include \$60 for the Clerk's Office and, for juvenile cases only, \$60 for the Illinois State Police; \$9 for a certified disposition; and \$4 for certification in juvenile cases only. If the case involved is a Class 4 Felony drug case, the petitioner will have to provide the results of a drug test taken within the past 30 days.

“This is an opportunity for individuals to expunge their court records; a second chance for them to be law-abiding, productive members of society,” said Clerk Brown. “We are attempting to remove as many impediments as possible for people who are attempting to better themselves and their quality of life.”

The Expungement Summit is being sponsored by: the Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County; Honorable Richard Devine, State’s Attorney of Cook County; Edwin Burnette, Cook County Public Defender; Baptist Ministers Conference of Chicago; Cabrini Green Legal Aid; CAPS; Chicago Police Department; Chicago Public Schools; Cook County Bar Association; Illinois Department of Employment Security; Illinois State Appellate Defender; Illinois State Police; NAACP; Pastors United for Change; Prisoner Review Board; Safer Foundation; and Westside Ministers Coalition.

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