



**Alberta
Justice and
Solicitor General**

Provincial Court of Alberta

Youth Records



What is a youth record?

A youth record is any document that connects a youth to a case in the youth justice system. It is not the same as an adult criminal record. It may contain police, court or government records or records from social services agencies.

Where can I get a copy of my record?

You and your lawyer are entitled to see a copy of your youth record at any time. Speak to your lawyer about obtaining a copy.

Who can use a youth record?

The Youth Criminal Justice Act (*YCJA*) places restrictions on who can see and use a youth record and in what circumstances. People that may have access to your record include:

- You, your lawyer and your parents or other adults that the court has recognized as assisting you;
- The Crown Prosecutor;
- The Judge;
- Police officers investigating the offence;
- The victim of the offence;
- Social workers; and
- Agencies involved in preparing reports or developing extrajudicial measures or sanctions.

Will a record stop me from getting or keeping a job?

An employer may ask you to obtain a criminal record check as a condition of employment. It is your decision whether or not to release this information to an employer, but if you do not, the employer may choose not to hire you.

Can I leave Canada?

Being found guilty of an offence as a youth may impact travel to other countries even after your youth record has been erased in Canada. Other countries are not bound by Canadian law. It is a good idea to speak to a youth lawyer before travelling to another country, whether your youth record is currently open or closed.

Will I have the Record the Rest of my Life?

As long as you do not commit any more crimes, your youth record will be erased after a period of time. The length of time you will have to wait for your record to be erased depends on what happened in court and how serious the offence was.

- 2 months after you have been found not guilty, the charge is withdrawn, or you receive a reprimand.
- 1 year after the charge was stayed
- 2 years after you agreed to an alternate measures proceeding
- 1 year after you were found guilty if you got an absolute discharge
- 3 years after you were found guilty if you got a conditional discharge
- 3 years from the last penalty you have finished, for a summary conviction offence (less serious offence). This means that if you do not finish your penalty or you keep on offending, you may have a record for life.
- 5 years from the last penalty you have finished, for an indictable offence (more serious). This means that if you do not finish your penalty or keep on offending, you may have a record for life.

Your record is not erased automatically on your 18th birthday.

If you commit an offence as an adult while your youth record is still available, it may be converted to an adult record.

More information about youth records is available at:
[Consequences of a Youth Record](#) published by the People's Law
School.

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