

Alice Marie Johnson Federal Expungement Act

For millions of Americans, a criminal record continues to impose consequences long after a sentence has been completed. While most states provide pathways to clear eligible records, the federal system offers virtually no meaningful expungement process. The Alice Marie Johnson Federal Expungement Act creates a narrowly tailored pathway for certain low-level offenses, non-convictions, and presidential pardons, ensuring that individuals who have demonstrated accountability and remained crime-free can fully reintegrate into society while preserving public safety protections.

The Problem:

- The federal justice system provides almost no pathway for individuals to clear eligible records, even years after completing their sentence and remaining law-abiding.
- Nearly one in three American adults has some type of criminal record, creating barriers to employment, housing, and economic opportunity.
- Nearly 90% of employers conduct background checks, allowing old records to limit opportunities long after a second chance has been earned.
- Individuals who were acquitted, had charges dismissed, or received a presidential pardon can still face lifelong consequences from records that remain publicly accessible.
- In the digital age, criminal records and related government publications can follow individuals indefinitely, making successful reentry more difficult and imposing costs on taxpayers and communities.

The Solution:

- Creates the first comprehensive federal expungement process for eligible individuals who have completed their sentence and demonstrated rehabilitation.
- Automatically expunges eligible non-conviction records and certain low-level federal drug offenses after five years of successful compliance.
- Allows individuals convicted of eligible federal offenses to petition a court for expungement, subject to judicial review and public safety considerations.
- Makes individuals who have received a full and unconditional presidential pardon eligible to seek expungement.
- Excludes serious and violent offenses while preserving victim notification requirements and opportunities for government objection when public safety concerns exist.