

Stark County Job & Family Services

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Erase the Crime and Erase the Past Job Help for Stark County Residents With Criminal Records

A criminal record can make it very difficult to find a job. On Aug. 19th, at Life Ministries Church, 2651 Market Ave N in Canton, free 30-minute information sessions will be offered to explain how offenders who qualify can have their criminal records expunged. When a criminal record is expunged it is sealed so that it is not publicly available.

Individuals with criminal convictions who do not qualify for expungement, will be given information about how to get a Certificate of Qualification for Employment. This certificate is issued by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections. The certificate tells employers that the person looking for work is rehabilitated and ready for employment. The certificate also protects employers who knowingly hire someone with a criminal record.

These sessions are offered through the Criminal Expungement Information Clinic and will be led by Community Legal Aid attorneys. Sessions will run every half-hour from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Attorneys will answer questions after each session and those who attend will have the opportunity to complete an application for expungement or for a certificate of qualification.

Those in attendance who have children and who are low income and below the 200% poverty level will not pay any application fees for expungement or the Certificate of Qualification for Employment. Participants in the *Right Path for Fathers Partnership Program* offered through the Child Support Enforcement Agency will also not be charged application fees.

The free Criminal Expungement Information Clinic, is sponsored by Stark County Job and Family Services, Stark County Fatherhood Coalition, Community Legal Aid and the United Way. For more information about the please contact Legal Aid, 330-983-2546 or www.communitylegalaid.org.

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