

What is the Project—JRAP?

The East Chicago Juvenile Reentry Assistance Project (JRAP) is a joint effort between Indiana Legal Services (ILS) and the East Chicago Housing Authority (ECHA). Funding is from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

JRAP is open to youth, 24 years old or younger, who have a criminal record (either an arrest or conviction) and 1) are currently living in public housing or 2) who are former public housing residents but still have family living in public housing.

How Can JRAP Help!

Through JRAP, ILS can help eligible youth in the following ways:

- ◆ Seek expungement of criminal records in juvenile and adult courts;
- ◆ Help in reinstating a suspended driver's license or in obtaining a special driver's license;
- ◆ Help families understand education laws, school suspension/expulsion policies and support re-admitting juveniles into school;
- ◆ Help in obtaining an occupational license (i.e. barber, beautician);
- ◆ Help at-risk families access public benefits;
- ◆ Reduce court fees and fines that may prevent one from filing for an expungement;
- ◆ Offer counsel on one's legal rights and obligations when searching for a job.

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East Chicago Housing Authority

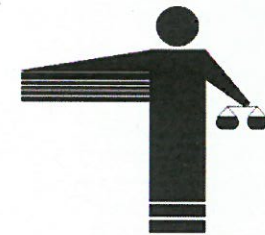
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"This project [also] represents a good investment for the community in reducing the chances that these individuals will commit crimes in the future." Jon Laramore, Executive Director of Indiana Legal Services, Inc.

"This program will provide new hope to youth in East Chicago and will remove major obstacles that may prevent them from becoming productive members in our community," said Tia Cauley, the Executive Director of the East Chicago Housing Authority.

East Chicago Juvenile Reentry Assistance Project



Indiana Legal Services, Inc.

Ensuring Equal Access to Justice

Visit Our Website at:
www.indianalegalservices.org



Who Are We?

Indiana Legal Services

Indiana Legal Services (ILS) is a statewide non-profit organization that provides **free** legal counsel to eligible persons. For over 40 years, ILS's attorney have been helping Hoosiers with civil legal issues (non-criminal) that threaten a person's basic necessities: housing, family integrity, income, access to health care and access to our justice system due to language barriers.

ILS has been serving East Chicago residents for years from the Catholic Charities office at 3901 Fir Street in Indiana Harbor and from its Merrillville office. ILS has staff who are fluent in English and Spanish to help fix a wide range of civil legal problems that confront East Chicago youth and their futures.

East Chicago Housing Authority

The East Chicago Housing Authority (ECHA) is a semi-independent public agency that provides eligible city residents with affordable housing and assistance in reaching self-sufficiency goals. ECHA operates public housing units and offers Section 8 vouchers.



Indiana's Second Chance Law

In 2011, the Indiana General Assembly passed legislation, commonly referred to as Indiana's Second Chance Law, to allow individuals to petition the court to approve the sealing of their arrest records and restricting criminal conviction records so that individuals can become employable.

Indiana's Second Chance Law is often called an "expungement law,"

- **Juvenile detention (arrest) and adjudicated (conviction) records can be expunged;**
- **Arrest records in adult court CAN BE EXPUNGED; "Expunged" records will not be shown on criminal history checks that are requested by non-criminal organizations or individuals;**
- Convictions in adult court can be sealed to all but law enforcement agencies;
- Only Federal and State criminal justice agencies will continue to have access to your full criminal record history after expungement.

The Second Chance Law allows:

- **A person has a once in a lifetime opportunity to petition the court(s) for the expungement of their conviction record;**
- No filing fee to petition the court to expunge arrest records; a person may seek a waiver on fees when seeking an expungement on convictions.
- A waiver of filing fees for petitioning the court to expunge arrest records.

Required Waiting Periods:

- Arrest records in adult court that does not lead to conviction may be expunged after one year;
- Misdemeanors convictions in adult court must wait five (5) years;
- Class D Felonies not resulting in bodily injury must wait eight (8) years after most recent conviction.
- A prosecutor and/or a court may allow you to file for an earlier expungement for arrests or convictions of lesser offenses.

Key Second Chance Law Requirements:

- All fees and fines for each conviction record must first be paid or waived.
- Petition must be filed in every Indiana county where judgment was made for each arrest and/or conviction.
- All petitions to expunge conviction records in Indiana must be filed within a single continuous 365-day period.
- That a person does NOT have any convictions during their waiting period.

Expungement of the following felonies remains at the discretion of the court:

- Felonies (other than Class D) that did not result in serious bodily injury: must wait eight (8) years after most recent conviction or three (3) years after sentence completion, whichever comes later.
- For Class A, B, and C Felonies, the waiting periods can vary under the law so please talk to an attorney with the details surrounding your case..

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