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## Provincial Court of Alberta

# Youth Records

### Other youth pamphlets include

*Youth Justice Court and You*

*Youth Judicial Interim Release (Bail Hearing)*

*Youth Penalties*

*Youth Appeals and Reviews*

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## **I appeared in court. Do I have a record?**

If you received a penalty, you may have a record.

## **What is a record?**

A record is a list of offences for which you have been found guilty and have received a penalty.

## **Where can I get a copy of my record?**

The RCMP or the municipal police force are official keepers of criminal records through the Canadian Police Information Centre. Contact your local police detachment.

## **Who can use a youth record?**

Judges can use your record to help determine what penalty you get for new offences even after you have turned 18. The law says that no one else can use a youth record.

## **Who can find out about my record?**

Any judge or police officer who deals with you may know about your record.

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

An employer may ask you to go to the police station to get a certificate showing you have no criminal record. It is your decision to release this record to an employer. However, if you refuse to release the record, and a clear criminal record check is a requirement of the employment, the employer may choose not to hire you.

## **Can I leave Canada?**

If you have ever been found guilty of an offence, some countries may require a Visa or Travel Waiver before you can enter the country. These countries are not bound by Canadian law. If you have doubts, contact the Immigration Office or Consulate of the country you want to visit at least two months before leaving Canada.

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## **Will I have the record for the rest of my life?**

If you were dealt with as a young person, your record will be erased

- 2 months after you have been found not guilty, the charge is withdrawn, or you receive a reprimand.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 you keep on offending, you may have a record for life.

**Your 18th birthday does not cancel a record. If you commit an offence as an adult, your young offender record can be brought to the court when the court is punishing you.**

If you receive an adult sentence, you'll have a record for the rest of your life, *unless* you're successful in getting a pardon.

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