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FW: Expungement information

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From: Sessa, Rachel
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To: Barron, Erek Delegate
Subject: Expungement information

Hi Delegate Barron –

It was great meeting you last week to discuss the expungement process! During the meeting, you requested that the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services provide you with a summary of the expungement process, with a specific emphasis on “partial expungements.” Please allow me to share the following information.

The expungement process within the State of Maryland begins when an individual petitions to the Maryland Judiciary for specific charges contained within their criminal history to be removed from public inspection. If a judge approves of the expungement, the court order is forwarded to the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Criminal Justice Information System- Central Repository’s Expungement Unit.

On occasion, the Maryland Judiciary may order a “partial expungement” for a case. A partial expungement is the removal of a specific charge from a unit of charges; instead of the removal of the complete unit of charges. Requests for partial case expungements require the Expungement Unit to send correspondence back to the Maryland Judiciary indicating that the specific charge being requested cannot be removed. The reason one charge cannot be removed is because a case, which can contain several charges, is associated with a tracking number and when a charge resides under one tracking number to remove it would take out the arrest event in its entirety. Once the Maryland Judiciary receives the correspondence from the Expungement Unit, they in turn “amend” their court records, essentially removing the specific requested charge and then resending the information to the Criminal Justice Information System- Central Repository. This process results in the information not being available for public inspection.

The system does not differentiate between the correspondence returned to the court for partial expungements and any other correspondence returned to the court for another reasons. Therefore, the Criminal Justice Information System – Central Repository’s Expungement Unit is unable to accurately discern the number of times the Maryland Judiciary has requested a partial expungement or amended their records.

I hope this information is helpful. Of course, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any future questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you during the 2016 Legislative Session!

Thanks so much,



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