



The
Public Record
Authority

The Public Record Update July 2019

BRB Publications, LLC

The nation's premier publisher of references and websites used for locating public records. We point the way to tens of thousands of government agencies, and thousands of vendors who maintain, search or retrieve public records.

BRB's products provide invaluable details that go well beyond a Google search. Our in-depth description of where at, how much, and is it any good all translate to enhanced productivity tools when in-depth due diligence is needed.

Court News

Just Released – Expanded Search Option Now Available in Virginia

The Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia recently released a new Online Case Information System (OCIS 2.0). The site allows users to perform *statewide searches for Criminal and Traffic case information found in both the Circuit & General District courts. *Note, there are two courts whose records are not provided on this system - Alexandria Circuit Court and Fairfax Circuit Court. The site is displayed as being statewide on the court's website; however, due to the exception of these courts the site doesn't completely qualify as being statewide. Access to the records from the two courts of exception (Alexandria Circuit & Fairfax Circuit) is provided on an individual basis through a web platform that these courts offer on an individual basis.

The possibility of this type of case management system was first mentioned in 2018 with the passing of [House Bill No. 780](#). Now, just over a year later, it has been released to the public. OCIS 2.0 is found at <https://eapps.courts.state.va.us/ocis/landing/false>. Searches can be conducted by name or case number. The contents of the cases found on this system will match what's found when searching the legacy case management system, OCIS. Depending on the user's needs, the new system OCIS 2.0 will save a great deal of time when performing research.

As with any new remotely accessible court data system, conducting due diligence to determine usability is highly recommended.

Wolf Point Justice Court – Now Charging for Record Searches

Criminal & Civil record searches in the Wolf Point Justice Court (Roosevelt County, MT), that were previously free, will now cost \$5.00 per name. This fee includes a 10-year search. For extended year searches, the court charges \$1.00 per additional year requested. Please note that the clerk's assistance is needed to obtain a record search in this court. There is not a public computer nor are there any other materials available to the public for searching.

Pennsylvania Clean Slate Act

With the passing of [HB 1419](#) in 2018, Pennsylvania amended its legislation that determined how citizens could have a record sealed. HB 1419, commonly referred to as the Clean Slate Act allowed

for the implementation of an automated system that reviews criminal cases of public record and determines their eligibility for sealing. In prior years, defendants who petitioned the court could have their low level, non-violent misdemeanors sealed. However, this newest revision to the legislation allows for automatic sealing of records without any action by the defendant.

On June 28, 2019, the automated system became operational. It is estimated that between now and June 2020, nearly 30 million records could be sealed. Here are the qualifying categories that each case must fall within to be considered:

Non-Conviction Records

- Charges Dropped
- Found Not Guilty

Non-Violent Conviction Records

- Summary Offenses
- Minor Misdemeanors

Cases will not be considered for seal unless the defendant has been crime-free for 10 years. Additionally, all fines and costs must be paid in full. Once sealed, the records will no longer appear on public records, but they can still be seen by law enforcement and the courts. A good resource to learn more about the Pennsylvania Clean Slate Act is found at <https://mycleanslatepa.com/>.

Pilot Program Launched in South Dakota

South Dakota is currently piloting a new case management system called [eCourts](#). Once released to the public, this system will allow access to court case information and certain document images from any computer, after an account is established. Users will be able to view and download pages for \$.10 per page. For this reason, the system is noted as being similar to [PACER](#) (Public Access to Court Electronic Records), the system provided by the Federal Judiciary to access federal appellate, district, and bankruptcy records.

The benefits of this new system beyond accessibility is users can search by name, date of birth, county, and the offense date range. The public access computers currently available in the courthouses only allow searching by case number. Requestors wanting to obtain a complete criminal history must submit a request to the clerk and pay \$20.00 per name.

At this time, it is unclear what types of case details and documents will be provided to the public once eCourts is officially released in late 2019/early 2020.

To learn more about eCourts visit <https://ecourts.sd.gov/Account/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f> and view the Help tab at the bottom of the page. An informative article about this pilot program can be found at https://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/south-dakotans-will-soon-be-able-to-access-court-records/article_7be2d9fc-ccc9-503b-ad86-5a4094a452c2.html

Please Support our Products and Resources

[BRB Subscription Products](#)

[Public Record Retriever Network - PRRN](#)

[Criminal Record Sources Center](#)

[The CRA Help Desk](#)

[Motor Vehicle Record Decoder](#)

BRB also provides links to thousands of [Free Public Record Sites](#).

We welcome your comments and observations about this newsletter.
Please address your comments to Kimberly Sparger
at kimberly@brbpublications.com or call (800) 929-3811.

Click [here](#) to begin receiving this newsletter monthly.

BRB Publications LLC | 3200 W. Pleasant Run Rd. #420 | Lancaster, TX 75146