

SEALING (or LIMITED ACCESS) means that only courts, law enforcement, and a small number of employers can see your criminal record. The general public, schools, landlords, and most employers do not have access to sealed records. Sealing is available for many (mostly non-violent, non-sex-related) misdemeanor convictions if you:

1. Have ten consecutive years without a misdemeanor or felony conviction following the misdemeanor conviction you want to seal, and
2. Have paid off all fines, court costs, and restitution related to the case you want to seal, and
3. Have not been convicted of
 - a. A first-degree felony, murder, or an offense punishable by more than twenty years in prison
 - b. More than one crime graded higher than a second-degree misdemeanor in the past fifteen years
 - c. More than three crimes in the past twenty years (except for third-degree misdemeanor or summary convictions, which do not count)
 - d. A violent felony or a sex- or gun-related felony in the past twenty years

SEALING is AUTOMATIC (starting in 2020) for:

- Non-convictions (not guilty, withdrawn, dropped, dismissed, etc.) after sixty days
- Summary convictions after ten years
- Many second- and third-degree misdemeanors, under certain conditions

If what is described is true or you are not sure...Contact the Bucks County Public Defender's Office at 215-348-6473