

# Step 8:

## Track Your Case

### Step 8.1: Sign up for Case Updates

- Your file stamped petition will be stamped with a Case Number provided by the Court.
  - Note: This number usually will start with the two digits of the current year. For example, if you filed in the year 2025, your case number might look like this 2516-CV00124
- Look up the case number at <https://www.courts.mo.gov/cnet/>
- Click on the Case.
- On the case header page, you should see three boxes that look like this:



- Click Track This Case. If you get an information screen, click “Continue.”
- Enter your email and/or phone number and again click Track This Case
- Now you will get an email or a text any time something happens in your case.
  - This could be something like the Court setting a hearing date or one of your Respondent’s entering the case and responding to your petition.

### Step 8.2: Get a Hearing Date (if the Court didn’t automatically set one for you)

Some counties will automatically set your hearing date for you. Other counties will require you to ask for one.

If your county did not automatically set your hearing date within a few days after you filed your petition, you will need to call the Circuit Clerk to inquire.

Wait to call until 30 days pass from the date your last respondents agency receives service. By law, your Respondent’s are entitled to time to respond to your petition before a hearing can be set.

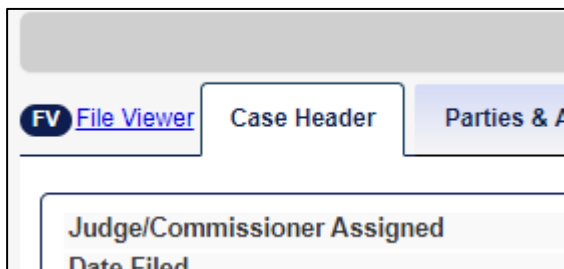
When you call, provide your case number to the clerk and ask when you can have a hearing on your expungement. The clerk should provide you with a date and time.

Note that many counties require you to appear in person for your hearing. However, many counties will also allow you to appear virtually (by Webex). It’s best to ask the clerk when you call about your hearing what your options are.

You may need to file a Notice of/Request for a Hearing, confirming that you want your case heard on that day. To do this, simply write a letter to the clerk with your case number, case name, the judge or division your case is assigned to, and the date and time provided by the clerk.

To find your assigned judge or division, you can look up your expungement case at <https://www.courts.mo.gov/cnet>

Click on your case. Look directly below the Case Header tab where it says “Judge/Commissioner Assigned.” To the right of that should be your assigned judge’s name.



Below is an example of what a Notice of a Hearing letter might look like.

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**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI**

Wiley J Coyote vs. Missouri State Highway Patrol, et al.  
Case No. 2316-CV00124

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Please take notice that I, Wiley J. Coyote, will call up for hearing my Petition for Expungement on *[date provided by clerk]* at *[time provided by clerk]* before Judge Road Runner.

Thank you,

Wiley J. Coyote,  
Pro Se Petitioner

# Step 9:

Go to your Hearing

When you go to court for the hearing, get there early and dress nice (it conveys respect to the court, which can only help your chances of being granted an expungement). Be prepared to wait a while until your case is called.

If the court allows you to appear virtually by Webex, make sure you have a good internet connection and that your camera frame is steady and not distracting. We recommend turning off your camera until your case is called, but if the court instructs you to leave it on while you wait, do that.

When your case is called, the court may start by asking you or the other parties in the case questions.

Be prepared to testify and answer questions about whether you meet the requirements for expungement (Listed as items #1-7 on the Petition for Expungement form). This may include questions about changes you have made in your life since the offense, why you need an expungement, and what you plan to do if the expungement is granted.

The court also might expect you to plead your case. If the court does, start by introducing yourself and noting that you are a pro se petitioner. Tell the court you believe you meet the law's requirements to have your case expunged and ask the court to grant your expungement. Also, respond to any objections if any have been filed and explain to the court why you think your case nonetheless meets the legal requirements to be expunged. You may consider also telling the court about why you deserve the expungement – for example, how you have changed since the offense and how you are now an upstanding, law-abiding citizen.

Be prepared to specify any of the details you listed in your petition, including the original criminal case number for the offense you seek to have expunged.

The court will likely decide whether to grant your expungement in court. If the court grants it, ask the clerk's office outside the courtroom when you can pick up a copy of the signed expungement order. You will want this for your records.

If the court denies your expungement, you still may be able to get an expungement in the future. After court, review your case and assess why the judge denied it.

If the reason was related to a requirement that might change in the future (i.e. the waiting period requirement becoming met, paying off all case-related debt, resolving pending charges) you should consider filing again in the future when you become eligible. However, it is important to know by law you must wait at least **one year** before you can file again even if you become eligible before that time.

If the reason your expungement was denied was related to your offense's eligibility or the number of the offenses you sought to get expunged, filing another petition would likely be a waste of money, unless Missouri's expungement law itself changes to allow new offenses or more offenses to be expunged.

# Step 10:

Verify all Respondents  
close your record within 30  
days.

The court and your respondents by law have 30 days to seal your record. Remember in Missouri under its main expungement statute 610.140 RSMo, an expungement is not complete destruction, but rather a sealing or closing of the records you have expunged so that they can't be seen by members of the public.

Sometimes mistakes happen and things get overlooked. After 30 days, you should attempt to verify your record has indeed been closed by the court.

You can check whether the court has sealed your case by searching for it at <https://www.courts.mo.gov/cnet>. The court should close **both** your original criminal case and your expungement case.

You can also call the court clerk to confirm.

You can check with Missouri State Highway Patrol by purchasing a name report. However, those cost \$15, but if it's important to you to confirm, it is an option.

You can also try calling or emailing your respondents. However, it might be difficult to find the exact person who is responsible for closing records, but Google might be able to help.

If you run into issues along the way, you can also try asking a question on Missouri Free Legal Answers, a website run by the American Bar Association. The website is [missourifreelegalanswers.org](http://missourifreelegalanswers.org). There is an Expungement Category, and a licensed Missouri lawyer who has signed up to help will likely take your question and answer it. You can exchange additional messages with the lawyer until you feel that you have gotten the information that you need. There is some income qualification at the beginning, but if you are confused about something, it's worth a shot.

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