

CORI & Reentry Project of Berkshire County



Despite the fact that you may never have been found guilty of a charge, or that you fulfilled any requirements of a guilty plea or verdict, you might be having trouble finding or keeping housing or employment because of your Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI). We may be able to help.

Civil or “collateral” consequences is the term often used to describe the difficulties facing people with CORI when they try to put their past behind them and move forward.

If you are facing any of the following legal issues due to criminal court involvement, incarceration, and/or a substance or alcohol use disorder, we may be able to assist you with:

- Sealing and expungement of CORI
- Public and subsidized housing denials
- Public and subsidized housing terminations
- Employment denials
- Housing discrimination based on substance and alcohol use disorder issues

Community Legal Aid provides free civil (non-criminal) legal services to low-income and elderly residents of Central and Western Massachusetts.

We work to assure fairness for all in the justice system, protecting homes, livelihoods, health, and families.

CORI Sealing

Getting a copy of your CORI, reading it, and determining whether some or all of the charges are sealable is complicated. If you want help understanding what is on your CORI and attempting to seal eligible charges, we are here to help.



Overcoming a Public or Subsidized Housing Denial or Termination

If you applied for public or subsidized housing and were denied due to your criminal record, you have the right to appeal that denial. We may be able to assist you with the appeal process.



If you are being terminated or evicted from public or subsidized housing due to a criminal records issue, you may have appeal rights. Contact us to find out whether we can assist with your case.

Employment Denials Due to CORI

Have you been denied a job because of your criminal record? You may have the right to address this denial with the employer.



Contact Us

Community Legal Aid
152 North Street, #155
Pittsfield, MA 01201
Phone: 413-499-1950

www.communitylegal.org