

Criminal records

There are many competing theories in criminology about causes of crime and what role the conscious mind plays. In other words, one question is: Can you make a conscious choice to avoid committing a crime?

If you have no criminal record, you should make every effort to keep it that way. One case of simple possession of drugs, a minor in possession of alcohol or more serious crimes such as DWI, larceny and on up the line can end your career before it ever starts. A DWI conviction stays on a motorist's driving record for 25 years, unlike other traffic convictions, which drop off after three years.

An expungement is a procedure where, at least in some states, a person can get their record cleaned up. Expungements in New Mexico are not authorized by statute. Public arrest and conviction records are also extremely easy to find on the Court's web site. There has only been one case appealed, a 1997 case called *In re Toth*, where Ms. Toth tried to get a misdemeanor shoplifting charge expunged from her record. She was afraid that her future employment prospects would be damaged if her arrest record were not expunged. The local District Court denied her request and she appealed. The higher Court stated that her record "is no more than the natural consequence of a lawful arrest. If Petitioner were allowed to expunge her records solely on this basis, then expunging records would become the rule rather than the exception."