

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. Until 2019, expungements in New Mexico were not authorized by statute. The legislature has passed a new statute on this, but it will not go into effect until January 1, 2020, so look for an update here later.