



**OFFICE OF THE
KANKAKEE COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY**

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STATE'S ATTORNEY**

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PRESS RELEASE

PROJECT CLEAN SLATE RETURNS TO KANKAKEE COUNTY: New Law Allows for Sealing of Most Criminal Records

KANKAKEE, IL – Kankakee County State's Attorney Jim Rowe and Pastor Montelee Crawford of Morning Star Church are hosting their 2nd annual *Project Clean Slate: Free Expungement and Sealing Clinic* to assist Kankakee County residents with re-entry into the workforce. The clinic will be held on **Saturday, January 20th from 10am-1pm at Morning Star Church**, 570 N. Harrison St. in Kankakee. Volunteer attorneys at the Clinic will assist participants in determining whether their record is eligible for expungement or sealing; if it is, they will help complete the necessary paperwork. No taxpayer dollars are being used to fund this Clinic and it is staffed entirely by volunteers.

"Reforms passed in 2017 make most felony and misdemeanor convictions eligible for sealing, subject to a few exceptions. This means that once a person has paid their debt to society and kept themselves out of trouble, they will no longer be negatively impacted by a past which may have otherwise prevented them from getting a job or renting a home. So like a lot of things in life, it comes down to the paperwork – and that is where this Clinic can help. Some may be surprised by how many people are laboring along, who are hopeless and discouraged and may have offenses that they can expunge or seal and they just don't know that option – to start over with a clean slate - is available to them. When we improve one's quality of life by putting them in a position to become gainfully employed, we lower the chance of recidivism – and that improves the quality of life for all residents in Kankakee County," said State's Attorney Jim Rowe.

Under reforms to the Criminal Identification Act (20 ILCS 2630) that went into effect on Aug. 24, 2017, any guilty conviction, misdemeanor or felony charge may be sealed as long as it has been at least 3 years from the completion of the sentence in the most recent case. The only cases that cannot be sealed are: traffic offenses; DUI; reckless driving; animal crimes; sex crimes (the law does allow an exception for prostitution and misdemeanor public indecency); domestic battery; and violations of orders of protection. Also, you are not eligible to have prior cases sealed or expunged if you have a current case pending or owe fines on the cases you are seeking to seal or expunge.

For further information, contact State's Attorney Jim Rowe at (815) 936-5800.

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**NEW SEALING LAWS
NOW IN EFFECT!**

**Ready for a
fresh start?**

**PROJECT CLEAN SLATE:
EXPUNGEMENT & SEALING CLINIC**

hosted by Kankakee County State's Attorney Jim Rowe
and Pastor Monteale Crawford, Morning Star M.B. Church

SAT., JANUARY 20, 2018

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

@ Morning Star Church

570 N. Harrison Ave., Kankakee, IL
(community center across the street)

State's Attorney Jim Rowe and Pastor Monteale Crawford are hosting a *FREE* expungement and sealing clinic for residents of Kankakee County who want help expunging or sealing their record so that they can re-enter the workforce.

START 2018 WITH A CLEAN SLATE

No Cost To Attend

First Come – First Served

No taxpayer dollars are being spent in connection with this Clinic. All participants are volunteers.

**NEW LAW PASSED IN 2017
ALLOWS THE FOLLOWING
RECORDS TO BE SEALED:**

- Most misdemeanor and felony convictions **ARE** eligible for sealing as of August 2017.
- Your last sentence on any conviction must have been completed at least three years ago.
- You are **NOT** eligible to seal the following offenses: DUI, sex crimes, animal crimes, domestic battery or traffic tickets.