

## **COUNTY OF YOLO**

Office of the County Administrator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Yolo County Hosting Expungement Clinic on April 11

(Woodland, CA) – Yolo County is dedicated to assisting residents in overcoming barriers to economic stability and successful reintegration into society. As part of this dedication, the county will host a free Expungement Clinic on Thursday, April 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Yolo County Administration Building Atrium, located at 625 Court Street in Woodland.

Individuals with a criminal history often face challenges in securing housing, employment, and professional licenses, even after having successfully rehabilitated. The Expungement Clinic offers an opportunity to alleviate these obstacles by providing valuable services to eligible attendees.

"Expungement isn't just about erasing a criminal record; it's about granting individuals the opportunity to redefine their future beyond the shadow of their past mistakes, "remarked Amberlene Hernandez a Senior Paralegal with the Yolo County Public Defender's Office. "Through expungement and other forms of record mitigation, the Yolo County Public Defender's Office is committed to restoring dignity and removing barriers to economic stability, while helping our clients navigate their full reintegration into the community."

Expungement is the legal process through which a criminal case is officially dismissed after probation or when a custodial sentence has been completed. This status enables individuals to declare on most applications that they are not convicted of a crime. However, in certain instances such as government positions, roles necessitating licenses, certificates, or permits, jobs affiliated with the State Lottery, or roles requiring security clearances, the conviction may still be discoverable. Additionally, certain offenses may be ineligible for expungement, including some convictions resulting in a prison sentence, specific Vehicle Code violations and sex offenses, and cases that were dismissed. However, alternative record relief may be available in some of these situations.

Services offered by the Yolo County Public Defender's Office to eligible attendees include expungement assistance, record reduction, termination of probation, certificate of rehabilitation, registry removal, and sealing eligible arrest documents. Attendees will have access to job assistance provided by organizations like Communicare+OLE and Prison 2 Employment. An immigration attorney from the Public Defender's Office will also be in attendance to provide free, related immigration consultations.

Residents from Yolo, Sacramento, and Solano counties are welcome to attend. Organizers anticipate assisting individuals with various convictions, ranging from recent offenses to those dating back several decades. Yolo

County encourages all eligible individuals to seize this opportunity for a fresh start and improve their foundation for economic stability.

This event is made possible through the collaboration of The Yolo County Children's Alliance, the Yolo County Cultural Competence Committee, the Yolo County District Attorney's Office, the Yolo County Public Defender's Office, The Sacramento County Public Defender's Office, the Umoja Community, and Yoloworks!.

For more information about the Expungement Clinic and the expungement process, please visit the Yolo County Record Mitigation and Community Reintegration Clinic webpage at <a href="https://www.YoloCounty.org/Expungement">www.YoloCounty.org/Expungement</a>.

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