

# CLEARING ARRESTS & CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS FROM YOUR RECORD

## Pennsylvania Law for Survivors of Sex Trafficking

### HOW IT WORKS

Your criminal record can be a barrier to getting a job, housing, and immigration status. It can also impact family law issues.

However, there is a Pennsylvania law that can help you clear your criminal record. The law applies to certain offenses that were committed by a victim of sex trafficking as a direct result of being trafficked. The law does not limit the number of arrests or convictions.

The following offenses may be vacated (or cleared) from your record:

- Prostitution
- Criminal trespass
- Disorderly conduct
- Loitering and prowling at night time
- Obstructing highways and other public passages
- Simple possession of a controlled substance

### AM I ELIGIBLE?

You may be eligible if your arrest and conviction occurred as a result of being trafficked. Being trafficked means someone made you engage in prostitution through:

- Causing or threatening harm, physical restraint, or abuse of the legal process;
- Kidnapping;
- Taking or retaining property as coercion;
- Withholding documents and identification;
- Extortion;
- Fraud;
- Criminal coercion;
- Duress through threatening to use force;
- Debt coercion;
- Facilitating and controlling access to a controlled substance; or
- Employing tactics intended to make you perceive a threat of harm or restraint to you or another if you don't perform.

### WHO TO CONTACT

If you are a victim of sex trafficking and are interested in learning more, please contact:

the **CSE Institute** at:

**610-519-7037**

or

**sarah.robinson@law.villanova.edu**



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CHARLES WIDGER SCHOOL OF LAW

THE INSTITUTE TO ADDRESS  
COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



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