CLEARING ARRESTS & CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS FROM YOUR RECORD

California Law for Survivors of Human 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 California law that can help you clear your criminal record.

The law applies to certain convictions that occurred as a direct result of being trafficked, from anywhere in the state of California, no matter how long ago they occurred. The law does not limit the number of arrests or convictions.

Once a conviction is vacated, it will not appear in any public record.

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

- Prostitution
- Criminal trespass
- Disorderly conduct
- Loitering
- 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. Human trafficking includes both sex trafficking and forced labor.

- Forced labor means you were coerced into doing work by any of the means below.
- Sex trafficking means you were under age 18 and engaged in prostitution **or** over 18 and someone compelled you into prostitution by any of the means below.
    - Hurting you or threatening to hurt your loved ones
    - Not letting you leave or go places alone
    - Controlling your money or documents
    - Forcing you to work off a debt
    - Providing you controlled substances

WHO TO CONTACT

Free legal assistance is available. Meet and talk confidentially with an attorney to see if we can help you vacate your trafficking-related convictions.

If you are a survivor of sex and/or labor trafficking and are interested in learning more, please contact:

Elyssa Caplan, Staff Attorney

Bet Tzedek Legal Services

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or

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