

To Law Enforcement Personnel that process firearms applications, please disseminate the following information to applicants impacted by the following information: An expungement is not immediate upon the court order.

Important Information Regarding an Expungement Order

The New Jersey State Police, National Instant Criminal Background Check System, NICS Unit and Firearms Investigation Unit would like to provide the following information:

As per 2C:58-3.d. Issuance, the chief of police or highest-ranking authority where the applicant resides, has the discretion to approve Firearms Purchaser Identification Cards, Pistol Purchase Permits, and Carry Permits.

Advise the applicant: **An Expungement is not immediate.**

There is a processing time that exists between a Court Order for Expungement issued by a judge and the completion of the expungement that removes information from a record performed by the New Jersey State Police Expungement Unit.

The NICS Unit is **required** to follow and maintain compliance with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, New Jersey Department of Criminal Justice, and other partners.

The NICS Unit is required to DENY firearm transfers to applicants with disqualifying prohibitors, EVEN when there is a pending court order for expungement.

Once expunged, the prohibiting statutes will no longer appear on the NJCCH, court records, or be available to the national requestors via the Interstate Identification Index (III) to be utilized in conjunction with a NICS check. **After the expungement has been completed, an individual can begin the application process for firearms ownership** and if no disqualifiers/prohibitors are observed, the NICS Unit will approve the transfer.

** An applicant can check their expungement status by visiting the New Jersey State Police website at: www.nj.gov/njsp/.

1. Click on "Services" at the top of the page
2. Navigate to "Expungement Information"
3. In the **Expungement Order Docket Numbers:** section, click on "Expunged Order Numbers"

If your civil docket number is listed, that means the expungement order has been processed. Please note that the file contained in the link only includes expungement orders processed after July 7, 2024. The file will be updated every two weeks.