

BOOKLET 5

ONE STOP CORI SEALING IN BOSTON MUNICIPAL COURT

Boston Municipal Court Standing Order 1:09 permits people who have cases in more than one division of the Boston Municipal Court (BMC) to seal them all at the same time in one court if they are asking to seal at least three charges. This only applies to cases that ended in dismissal, a not guilty finding, or a nolle prosequi (the D.A. dropped the case). A case that ended in a nolle prosequi is often listed as “NP” on a CORI report.

STEP 1. Figure out if you’re eligible to seal at least three charges in the BMC.

The BMC includes the following 8 courthouses located at:

- Roxbury Dorchester
- West Roxbury Brighton
- Charlestown East Boston
- South Boston BMC Central (Ed Brooke Courthouse, 24 New Chardon St., Boston)

You can use this process if you have:

- **3 or more charges that you are asking to seal in the Boston Municipal Court (BMC):**
- **The charges or cases are closed and were dismissed or ended in a nolle prosequi (the D.A. dropped the case), or a “not guilty” finding.**

For example, Sam lives in Roxbury and was found “not guilty” in 1 case in Roxbury and has 5 dismissed cases in Dorchester. He can file a petition in Roxbury to seal the 6 cases.

STEP 2. If you want to seal all of the BMC cases at the same time, figure out where to go to use the new “one stop” process.

You must file the petition to seal in the BMC division whose jurisdiction covers where you live if any of the cases you’re trying to seal are from that court.

For example, Joe lives in Roxbury and has 2 cases in Roxbury, 1 case in Dorchester and 1 in West Roxbury that are eligible for sealing. He can file a petition in Roxbury to seal all of his BMC cases at the BMC court in Roxbury because he lives in Roxbury.

What if you moved?

If you have BMC cases you want to seal, but no longer live in Boston or you have no cases to seal in the BMC division covering where you live, you can file a petition to seal all your BMC cases in the court division that was the LAST court to handle one of your BMC cases.

For example, Sean lives in Quincy and has BMC cases in Roxbury, Dorchester, and Brighton. His last BMC case that is eligible to seal was in Dorchester. He can file a petition to seal all his eligible BMC cases in the Dorchester Division of the BMC.

For example, Mary lives in Roxbury and has 3 cases in Charlestown and 2 cases in Brighton. Her last case was in Charlestown. She can seal all 5 cases in the Charlestown court division.

BOSTON MUNICIPAL COURT DIVISIONS AND CORRESPONDING CITIES

Courthouse:	Areas Covered:
BMC "CENTRAL" Edward Brooke Courthouse (New Chardon St. Boston):	Suffolk County (Beacon Hill, North end, Downtown, Parts of South end, Mission hill, various areas)
BRIGHTON:	Allston, Brighton
CHARLESTOWN:	Charlestown
DORCHESTER:	Dorchester
EAST BOSTON:	East Boston, Winthrop
ROXBURY:	Roxbury
SOUTH BOSTON:	South Boston
WEST ROXBURY:	West Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Hyde Park, Roslindale

Note: The Roxbury, West Roxbury, Dorchester, and BMC Central (Edward Brooke Courthouse, New Chardon Street) divisions of the Boston Municipal Court also have different streets or wards in Mattapan and Mission Hill. You can call the court if you don't know what court has jurisdiction over the place where you live.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call the Legal Advocacy & Resource Center (LARC) to 617-603-1700. If you live in the Boston area, you'll be screened for eligibility for an intake for Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS). GBLS is not able to take every case, but LARC or GBLS may be able to refer you to other resources to help you solve your problem.
- To find a legal aid program near you, go to:
www.masslegalhelp.org
- To read more information on CORI, go to the CORI section of the Mass Legal Help website:
www.masslegalhelp.org
- Read other Booklets in this series:

Booklet 1: How to Get a Copy of your Criminal Record (CORI)

Booklet 2: How to Seal Old Criminal Cases

Booklet 3: Sealing Cases that Ended without a Conviction or First Time Drug Offenses

Booklet 4: Representing Yourself in Court After Filing a Petition to Seal Criminal Cases

Booklet 5: One Stop CORI Sealing in Boston Municipal Court

This information is provided as a public service by Greater Boston Legal Services and does not constitute legal advice which can only be given to you by your own attorney. This booklet relates to criminal records located in Massachusetts and to the laws, forms, and practices in effect as of February 1, 2016. Bills are often filed to change various laws. This booklet is made available through funding from the Gardiner Howland Shaw Foundation and is also available online at masslegalhelp.org