

From the offices of



LORI M. TYACK
County Municipal Court Clerk

Franklin

MEDIA ADVISORY

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The Franklin County Municipal Court Clerk is Awarded Funds to Assist Indigent Defendants

It is an unfortunate reality that a record number of individuals in our community are hindered from obtaining employment or adequate housing due to their background checks. The Franklin County Municipal Court Clerk's Office has been awarded Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000) to provide an opportunity for indigent defendants to participate in the Ohio Expedited Record Update Service Program. The purpose of the pilot is to electronically notify companies who own private databases, websites, and publications to remove criminal records from their systems.

Am. Sub. H.B. 49, passed in 2017, authorized the Ohio Attorney General to contract with a private vendor to send electronic notification to more than 600 background check companies once Courts have approved an application for expungement or sealing of record. The first application was received on March 5th. Currently there are more than 90 of 417 applicants enrolled in the program which will end October 1, 2018.

Unfortunately, many applicants are unable to pay the \$50 filing fee plus the \$45 to "Opt In" to the pilot program. Allocation of these funds may assist those who are not habitual offenders to reset their lives.

Individuals who wish to participate in the pilot program but cannot afford to pay the \$45 must complete an Affidavit of Indigency to be determined eligible for these funds by the Court. Individuals must also complete the Notification of Expedited Record Update Service Program Form which is available through the Expungement/Sealing Department on the 2nd floor of the Franklin County Municipal Court Clerk's Office. The Franklin County Self-Help Center can provide assistance to those who are income qualified. The Center is located on the 6th floor of 375 S. High Street.

"Indigent defendants who are provided an opportunity to participate in this pilot program may realize an improvement of their quality of life prospects. I am grateful and pleased to partner with Councilmember Page and the Franklin County Self-Help Center to provide this valuable assistance to those who need it most," Clerk Tyack said.

For more information, please visit the Franklin County Self-Help Center or call our Expungement/Record Sealing Department at 614-645-1706 anytime between 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.