



**Amherst
Community
Connections**

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Housing is THE Solution to Homelessness

CORI Question & Answer Sheet

What is CORI?

CORI stands for Criminal Offender Record Information and is an account of court appearances in the state of Massachusetts

Who can see my CORI?

Landlords and prospective housing authorities, employers, and anyone in the general public can pay a fee to view your 'Open CORI' for an overview of your convictions.

How can I find out what is on my CORI record?

Send in the CORI Request Form signed in front of a Notary public. This can be done at either the Amherst Town Hall or AJ Hastings for \$5 (bring a photo ID). The fee to see your record is \$25 payable by money order to the 'Commonwealth of Massachusetts' or you may fill out an Affidavit Form to get the fee waived.

How do I know if I qualify to have the fee waived?

Reasons to qualify include receiving SSI, TAFDC, EAEDC, or MassHealth, having income 125% of federal poverty guidelines, or paying the fee means you cannot pay for basic necessities.

Where do I send these forms?

220 Arlington Street, Suite 2200 Chelsea, MA 02150. Include your request form, Affidavit or Money order. **For more information call:** (617) 660 – 4600

Can I seal my CORI right away?

No. Depending on what you were convicted of the waiting period is different. For a misdemeanor you must wait 5 years, for a felony 10, and sex crimes 15 before you can file to seal your CORI.

Can I seal my CORI if during that waiting period I was convicted or incarcerated again?

No, the waiting period must be without any other incidents.

After I wait how can I seal my CORI?

You can seal by mail or in court. You can **ONLY** seal in court for first time drug convictions, not guilty, or dropped cases. The benefit to doing so is skipping the waiting period.

When sealing by mail what steps do I need to take?

Fill out a Petition to Seal and send it to: One Ashburton Place, Rm. 405 Boston, MA 02150.

When sealing in court what steps do I need to take?

Court is a two hearing process where you must bring your Petition to Seal, a Motion to Seal Record (provided by court), and possible job rejection letters and letters to increase your chances that describe why CORI hurts you. Again this may only be done for first time drug possession, not guilty verdicts or dropped cases. When choosing court over mail in these cases you may skip the 5/10 year waiting period.

Are there crimes that cannot be sealed?

Yes, this includes: buying and selling firearms, "Crimes against the Public" (resisting arrest, perjury etc.), and Level 2 or Level 3 sex offenses. **You may not seal any crime if you are on the sex offender registry.**