



Petition for Ethiopian Immigrants to Submit Requests to Expunge a Criminal Record

Due to the impending Sigd holiday, the President of the State and the Minister of Justice issued a special petition to Ethiopian immigrants to submit requests to expunge criminal records. Approximately two years ago, the team for eradicating racism against Ethiopian immigrants published a report. The report described the discriminatory treatment of Ethiopian immigrants by various official establishments, including law enforcement. To complete the process of repairing and mending rifts, as well as augmenting trust between Ethiopian immigrants and the law enforcement and judicial authorities, the President and Minister of Justice are petitioning Ethiopian minors and youth who were tried in the past for offenses of disturbing public order to submit requests to expunge criminal records. The applications will be assessed in a positive light due to the outstanding contribution of these youth to Israeli society.

What is a criminal record, and what are its consequences?

The Israel Police maintain the criminal registry and include information regarding convictions and sentences imposed by the court. The information in the criminal registry regarding an individual is called a "criminal record". A criminal record can hinder an individual with a record in several aspects, particularly their employment.

Who is the petition to expunge a criminal record for?

Members of the Ethiopian community who were tried in the past for offenses of disturbing public order and discord with the enforcement entities, such as offenses of insulting a public official, interfering with a public official, assaulting a public official, disturbing public order, prohibited assembly, rioting, etc.

It should be noted that the petition relates only to those whose proceedings have been completed in court and for whom no prison sentence has been imposed. The appeal does not relate to those who committed offenses unrelated to disturbing public order and discord with enforcement entities, such as domestic violence offenses.

However, it should also be noted that the special petition by the President and the Minister of Justice does not prohibit the submission of requests for expungement by any individual within the general pardon power granted to the President.

What should a request to expunge a criminal record include?

Anyone who submits a request to have a criminal record expunged must submit a detailed and reasoned request for clemency and specify why their criminal record should be expunged. The applicant must state the circumstances regarding committing the offense and facts relevant to the request, such as personal and family circumstances, medical reasons, financial situation, contribution to society (military service, volunteering, notable achievements), and more.

In addition, the applicant must provide personal information and their ID no. and attach the court decisions relevant to their case.

Where should you send the application for expunging criminal records?

The request to expunge a criminal record must be submitted to the Office of the President in one of the following:

- 1) Submit an online form on the Office of the President's website
- 2) Email to: Haninot@president.gov.il
- 3) Mail to: 3 Hanasi Street, Jerusalem 9218801
- 4) Fax: 02-5887225

For further inquiries on any matter related to this request, please contact representatives of the Legal Department at the Office of the President on Sunday-Thursdays between 9:00-11:00 at 02-6707211.