



HOMeward

Eviction Expungement

What is eviction expungement?

Eviction expungement is a process that allows eviction filings in specific circumstances to be removed from public record (e.g. after a certain amount of time, in cases that are resolved out of court). Currently, Iowa has no mechanism to remove an eviction filing from an individual's record, even if it was made in error.

Why would eviction filings be dismissed?

51%

of eviction filings are dismissed and don't go to court due to tenant/landlord resolution and errors in filings, yet the eviction filing remains on public record forever.

Why does removing an eviction filing matter?

Landlords are advised to deny potential renters who have had prior evictions. In Iowa, an eviction and a dismissed eviction filing look exactly alike in someone's public record. The ability to remove evictions protects a landlord from unintentional unfair housing practices.

Can a dismissed eviction filing impact employment?

YES. The Fair Credit Reporting Act allows for civil judgments and lawsuits to be considered in employment background checks, regardless of the age of the information. A dismissed eviction filing could keep a much-needed employee out of the workforce unfairly.

Between 2012 and 2016, Black women renters were 5.5x more likely to have evictions filed against them than white renters in the same financial situation. (ACLU of Iowa, Race and Gender Discrimination in Housing, January 2023)

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The number of states with processes to seal or expunge eviction records, including Texas, Utah, Arizona, Indiana, Maryland, and Connecticut.

In 2022 alone, **5** states passed legislation to seal or expunge eviction filings.

Eviction expungement is simply good government.

Find out more about homelessness at www.homewardiowa.org.