

University of California, Los Angeles
RESEARCH INFORMATION SHEET
California Expungement Study

WHY IS THIS RESEARCH BEING DONE?

California recently passed several laws enabling the expungement of criminal records. This study examines how one of these laws, for petition-based expungement, has been implemented in CA counties, the aspects that are working well, the challenges, and the experiences of people requesting expungement.

BACKGROUND

Naomi Sugie from the sociology department at the University of California, Los Angeles and Dallas Augustine from the justice studies department at San Jose State University are leading this research study. This study is funded by Crankstart Foundation in partnership with the nonprofit organization Californians for Safety and Justice. You were selected as a possible participant in this study because of your experience with petition-based expungement. Your participation in this research study is voluntary.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT A RESEARCH STUDY?

- Someone will explain this research study to you.
- Whether or not you take part is up to you.
- You can choose not to take part.
- You can agree to take part and later change your mind.
- Your decision will not be held against you.
- You can ask all the questions you want before you decide.

HOW LONG WILL THE RESEARCH LAST AND WHAT WILL I NEED TO DO?

Participation will consist of an interview, lasting about 30 minutes to 1 hour. If you are waiting to hear about your petition's decision, you may be asked to do a follow up interview lasting about 30 minutes to 1 hour. The interview will be conducted in-person, remotely on zoom, or on the phone. If you permit us to record your interview, you will be allowed to review, edit, and erase the recordings of your participation.

If you volunteer to participate in this study, the researcher will ask you questions about petition-based expungement in California. You may choose to skip questions and/or end the interview at any time.

In addition to the interview, participation will consist of the research team obtaining your California county court records for up to 2 years after the interview date (or the date the petition was filed with the courts, whichever comes first).

ARE THERE ANY RISKS IF I PARTICIPATE?

- Questions relating to criminal legal histories and experiences might possibly raise psychological and/or emotional risks. You can skip any question or end the interview at any time.
- There is the possibility of unintended disclosure of identifiable information. To mitigate this risk, research information is stored on a secure and password-protected university system.

ARE THERE ANY BENEFITS IF I PARTICIPATE?

You will not directly benefit from your participation in the research.

The results of the research are intended to inform policy-relevant knowledge about the strengths and challenges of petition-based expungement in California.

What other choices do I have if I choose not to participate?

Your alternative to participating in this research study is to not participate.

How will information about me and my participation be kept confidential?

The researchers will do their best to make sure that your private information is kept confidential. Information about you will be handled as confidentially as possible, but participating in research may involve a loss of privacy and the potential for a breach in confidentiality. Study data will be physically and electronically secured. As with any use of electronic means to store data, there is a risk of breach of data security.

Use of personal information that can identify you:

Your interview answers and court records will be given a study number and will be linked to a separate code key with your name, contact information, and other identifying information that will be destroyed after data collection.

How information about you will be stored:

Interview transcripts, other interview materials (audio/video recordings), and court records will be stored and secured on a secure and password-protected university system. No data will be stored on portable devices.

People and agencies that will have access to your information:

The research team and authorized UCLA personnel may have access to study data and records to monitor the study. Publications and/or presentations that result from this study will not identify you by name or other identifying information.

Employees of the University may have access to identifiable information as part of routine processing of your information, such as lab work or processing payment. However, University employees are bound by strict rules of confidentiality.

USE OF DATA FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Your data may be kept for use in future research. These materials will be de-identified.

WILL I BE PAID FOR MY PARTICIPATION?

You will be paid \$50 in cash or via a cash application (e.g., Venmo, Zelle, Cash App) for each completed interview.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS STUDY?**The research team:**

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the research, please contact the research team at expungement@soc.ucla.edu or 310-825-5124.

UCLA Office of the Human Research Protection Program (OHRPP):

If you have questions about your rights as a research subject, or you have concerns or suggestions and you want to talk to someone other than the researchers, you may contact the UCLA OHRPP by phone: 310-206-2040; by email: participants@research.ucla.edu or by mail: Box 951406, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1406.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS IF I TAKE PART IN THIS STUDY?

- You can choose whether or not you want to be in this study, and you may withdraw your consent and discontinue participation at any time.
- Whatever decision you make, there will be no penalty to you, and no loss of benefits to which you were otherwise entitled.
- You may refuse to answer any questions that you do not want to answer and still remain in the study.

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

- Yes
- No

DO YOU AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY?

- Yes
- No

ARE YOU WILLING TO BE AUDIO AND/OR VIDEO RECORDED (FOR TRANSCRIPTION PURPOSES ONLY)?

- Yes
- No

You will be given a copy of this information to keep for your records.