

Felony Arrests Haunt Job-Seekers

Felony conviction records have lasting employment consequences as evidenced by the article "Long After Arrests, Records Live On" (page one, Dec. 26). The likely consequences of the inability to obtain required licenses needed for employment in law, medicine, building contracting or child care never disappear even if a record is sealed or expunged. Even if the felony is later reduced to a misdemeanor, the prohibition may continue depending on state law.

Further, juvenile records

aren't always sealed for certain offenses that may have been committed by children as young as 12 in some states. This belies the stated purpose of juvenile law, rehabilitation. A governor's pardon can help to eliminate the lifetime consequences, but pardons are discretionary and take years to obtain if at all. They may not be available to juvenile offenders.

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