

Speaker 1:

If you have an encounter with law enforcement, be polite, be cooperative. That doesn't mean that you should talk, right? Yes sir. No sir. Yes ma'am. No ma'am. I want an attorney. Those are the things that you should say. It would be great, and we wouldn't need lawyers if everybody could handle things on their own, but the system is not made that way. You can't go in there and expect the outcome you want if you don't know what you're doing. You could get suspended from school or terminated from your school so that's serious. And then as far as if you're convicted of a misdemeanor in North Carolina, it stays on your record. Some misdemeanors are expungeable after, but it might stay on there for like five years, for instance, is what the current law is on misdemeanors. And with felonies it's 10 years so you've got that to deal with for those years.

And then depending on what you're charged with, there's some things that you can't get expunged at all. You can have a permanent criminal record. Obviously, that affects you going forward because people pull records for various things that you're involved in from volunteer work to security jobs, to regular jobs, anything. So it can follow you around. I have people calling me that got convicted of something 40 years ago, and it's still on their mind. Laws change and sometimes I'm able to tell them, "Yes, now that is eligible for expunction." I had a guy call me something that happened 20 some years ago. He's successful, but it's just something on his mind, and he wants it off so that's a long-term consequence because this guy's been dealing with and thinking about the fact that he has this criminal offense on his record for all these years. It's just weight on him So we don't want that. We want it to be a resolution that you're not thinking about it 20 years from now because it's not there anymore. That's what we really want.