



CHAPTER 15A
ARTICLE 5 - EXPUNCTION OF RECORDS

N.C.G.S. § 15A-149.

Expunction of records when pardon of innocence is granted.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT No amendment history on record	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 02:08 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT 9b5d658adb339e645fe3cc8d - b069a772afb61a1afab75bd - 0e66055885f7a260
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- § 15A-149(a)

If any person is convicted of a crime and receives a pardon of innocence, the person may petition the court in which the person was convicted on a form approved by the Administrative Office of the Courts supplied by the clerk of court for an order to expunge from all official records any entries relating to the person's apprehension, charge, or trial. Upon receipt of the petition, the clerk of court shall verify that an attested copy of the warrant and return granting a pardon of innocence has been filed with the court in accordance with G.S. 147-25. Upon verification by the clerk that the warrant and return have been filed, the court shall issue an order of expunction.
- § 15A-149(b)

The order of expunction shall include an instruction that any entries relating to the person's apprehension, charge, or trial shall be expunged from the records of the court and direct all law enforcement agencies, the Department of Adult Correction, the Division of Motor Vehicles, or any other State or local government agencies identified by the petitioner as bearing record of the same to expunge their records of the entries. The clerk shall notify State and local agencies of the court's order as provided in G.S. 15A-150 and shall forward the petition to the Administrative Office of the Courts. The costs of expunging the records, as required under G.S. 15A-150, shall not be taxed against the petitioner.
- § 15A-149(c)

The effect of an expunction under this section is governed by G.S. 15A-153. (2005-319, s. 1; 2009-510, s. 7; 2011-145, s. 19.1(h); 2017-186, s. 2(vv); 2017-195, s. 1; 2021-180, s. 19C.9(s); 2025-25, s. 31(n).)

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS II
3 AUTHORITIES

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 147-25	(a)	<i>"with the court in accordance with"</i>
G.S. 15A-150	(b)	<i>"the court's order as provided in"</i>
G.S. 15A-153	(c)	<i>"under this section is governed by"</i>

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 15A-149 (2026).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 15A-149(a) (2026).

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