

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Media Advisory

Safe & Just
Michigan

Expungement fair offering free eligibility screening coming to Allegan County Aug. 23

PLAINWELL — People who have been held back from getting good-paying jobs and safe, affordable housing because of old items on their criminal record have an opportunity to see if they can remove those old convictions under Michigan’s new Clean Slate laws at an expungement fair coming to Allegan County Aug. 23. The free expungement fair will be held at the Christian Neighbors Building located at **282 12th St. in Plainwell from noon to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 23.** Pre-screening registration for this event has closed, but walk-in participants will also be accepted as space is available. This free event is co-sponsored by Lansing-based Safe & Just Michigan, a nonprofit that advances policies to end the over-use of incarceration and promote community safety and healing, as well as the Christian Neighbors, Michigan Attorney General’s Office and the Allegan, Ottawa & Van Buren Public Defender’s Office.

The benefits of an expungement can be enormous. According to a 2020 study from University of Michigan researchers, people who receive an expungement see their wages raise an average of 22 percent in the year following the expungement — mostly because previously unemployed people were able to find jobs, and minimally employed people were able to find steadier or higher-paying jobs.

“Since Clean Slate increased access to expungements, we’ve seen hundreds of thousands of Michiganders get a fresh start in finding good-paying jobs and safe, affordable housing,” said Safe & Just Michigan’s Clean Slate Program Manager **Kamau Sandiford**, who is available for interviews in the days leading up to the event. “We’ve been working with partners to bring expungement fairs to every corner of the state, so that we can help as many people as possible make the most of Michigan’s expungement opportunities.”

WHO: Kamau Sandiford, Safe & Just Michigan Clean Slate Program Manager
WHAT: Plainfield Expungement Fair
WHERE: Christian Neighbors Building, 282 12th St. in Plainwell
WHEN: **Friday, Aug. 23 from noon to 4:30 p.m.**

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Safe & Just Michigan (www.safeandjustmi.org) works to advance policies that end Michigan’s over-use of incarceration and promote community safety and healing. We partner with Michigan organizations and leaders from across the political spectrum, including business and community leaders, faith communities, crime survivor organizations, formerly incarcerated individuals, prisoners and their families, as well as Michigan taxpayers statewide.