

Sample Declaration #5

1. In 1989, I was convicted of Grand Theft (PC 487.1). I take full responsibility for my past actions and the impact my actions had on other people. I now petition the court to consider my motion to dismiss my conviction due to the work I have done since my conviction.
2. Even though my conviction was 30 years ago, I experience dealing with my record on a daily basis, and feel I am constantly on the radar, no matter where I go or what I do. There is an image of myself that does not match who I am, but that I carry around every day. It feels humiliating to be viewed as a dishonest person, when that does not reflect who I have been for the past 30 years. For this reason, I am seeking relief.
3. I deeply regret my actions 30 years ago. I was young when I committed this crime, and for a short period of time I was trying to fit in by using drugs and alcohol. I was listening to the wrong people and was caught up with the wrong crowd. I knew immediately this was a "one and done" situation and not something I wanted to do, or a life I wanted to live. I decided I needed a new set of friends and to get away from that crowd, and to never go back to that type of life. It has been 30 years, and I never have.
4. After I was released, I went to college for several years (1991-93), and then decided to pursue a career in [REDACTED], so I obtained my license. I worked very long hours, so was not able to finish school. But I chose this path because it was rewarding, both financially and because I loved the work, and I had a very good career for many years. I worked with the [REDACTED] as a volunteer cosmetologist for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and found that immensely rewarding. I recently worked as a teacher at a [REDACTED] [REDACTED], but the school closed down, so I have returned to being self-employed and working in a [REDACTED] as a [REDACTED].
5. Today I feel like I am a much better person in a much better space. I got married and started a family, and have a son who is in college. I have actively been attending my [REDACTED] since 1991, where my [REDACTED] is on the [REDACTED]. I am also the [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. For 30 years, I have been a productive individual, with the longevity of my career, always working hard, caring for my

family, and attending church. I have a normal life, I've traveled, and I am a productive member of society.

6. Not only does my conviction not represent who I am today, it has severely limited my career opportunities. There are many jobs I applied for where I received no response, or just a "no" because of my record. In 2015, when I applied for a cosmetology teaching credential program to help me find a more secure job, I was rejected because of my record. I recently was rejected from a [REDACTED] because of my record. I have applied for many other jobs to fill in my [REDACTED] work over the years (including twice as a census worker) and been denied, limiting my options to make a living outside of being self-employed or my ability to supplement my income.

7. If I could have a clean slate, and not be held back by my record, I would consider going back to school. I would like to study business or marketing and expand my opportunities beyond cosmetology. I also wish to be able to present to the world as the honest, productive, caring and good person I know I am today.

8. I have attached to my Declaration (1) a letter of support from my [REDACTED], and (2) a letter of support from my son, both speaking to my record of rehabilitation. I have also attached several certificates of achievement.

9. For these reasons, I respectfully request that the court expunge my conviction so that I can continue to achieve my goals and contribute to society to the best of my ability.