

How to Cope With A CORI¹

1.) C-O-R-I stands for Criminal Offender Record Information

- A criminal record –(CORI) – is created for a person from the eminent he or she is arrested by the police, to the time he or she is arraigned and processed through various criminal justice agencies including probation, jail, or probation
- By law, various public and private agencies, social services agencies, employers and housing providers have or can get access to CORI

2.) How to Cope with a CORI

A. Obtain a copy of your criminal record

B. Determine if your record can be sealed

- You might be eligible for sealing if there are not guilty findings, dismissals or lack of probable cause entries on your criminal record²
- You may also be eligible to have very old convictions sealed³

3.) How to Create and Carry a Helpful CORI Package

A) A personal letter, and supporting letter for the ex-offender should:

- a) Briefly explain the most serious convictions on the criminal record
- b) Explain what the ex-offender has done in recent times to show rehabilitation
- c) Explain the strengths and skills of the ex-offender
- d) Explain why the record should not stand in the way of the ex-offender

B.) Recent letters from social workers, employers, probation officers, parole officers, landlords and clergy attesting to the good character or evidence of rehabilitation of the ex-offender.

C.) Provide prospective employer or housing provider with CORI Package.

D.) Be proactive and persistent

4.) Call the CORI Project at Mass. Law Reform 617-357-0700

GOOD LUCK!

¹ Francisca D. Fajana, Esq. Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Inc. , September 2002

² See Mass. General Laws, Chapter 276, Sect. 100C, which details statutory requirements

³ See Mass. General Laws, Chapter 276, Sect. 100A. Section 100B allows sealing of juvenile records