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Legal Aid Calls on Governor Hochul to Sign Bill That Will Afford New Yorkers Equal Access to Sealing and Expungement of Court Records

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** issued the following statement calling on Governor Hochul to sign [S7444/A6544](#), legislation that would amend the Family Court Act (FCA) to address an anomaly in its provisions relating to the sealing and expungement of records in persons in need of supervision (PINS) cases:

“People who have been the subject of persons in need of supervision cases undoubtedly deserve the benefit of court record sealing and expungement. This bill provides a long overdue fix to the Family Court Act and will help ensure that New Yorkers do not lose access to jobs, housing, and educational opportunities as a result of childhood misbehavior. We urge Governor Hochul to sign this bill without delay.”

Background

Today, the Family Court affords greater protections to juvenile delinquency records (crimes committed by children) than status offense records (non-criminal youthful behavior). This bill would correct this anomaly by affording respondents in PINS cases expungement and record sealing privileges to prevent lasting collateral consequences stemming from childhood misbehavior.

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The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 140 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. www.legalaidnyc.org