

Table of Rehabilitation Periods

The table below outlines the rehabilitation periods after which many of these sentences will be considered 'spent'. This means an applicant may answer "no" if asked about a criminal conviction or record unless the job to which they are applying is an 'excepted' one. A criminal record will not necessarily be a bar to obtaining a position.

Custodial sentences of over 2½ years can never become spent

	Rehabilitation Period	
	<i>Aged 18 or over upon conviction</i>	<i>Aged under 18 upon conviction</i>
Prison (immediate or suspended sentence) or Young Offender Institution- more than 6 months but less than 2½ years	10 years	5 years
Prison (immediate or suspended sentence) or Young Offender Institution- 6 months or less	7 years	3.5 years
Fine or Community Service Order, Combined Orders	5 years	2.5 years
Absolute Discharge	6 months	
Probation Order, Bind Over, Conditional Discharge, Care/Supervision Order	Date order ceases or 1 year (after date of conviction) - whichever is longer	
Attendance Centre Order, Juvenile Justice Order, Youth Conference Order, Community Responsibility Order	1 year after the Order expires	
Hospital Order (with or without restriction)	5 years (after date of conviction) or 2 years after the Order expires - whichever is longer	

- Consecutive prison sentences count as a single term when calculating the rehabilitation period.
- If more than one sentence was imposed for an offence, the longer rehabilitation period applies.
- If a person receives new conviction during rehabilitation period:
 - (i) for a summary offence (i.e. can only be tried at Magistrates Court) both rehabilitation periods expire separately;
 - (ii) for a more serious offence (i.e. which could be tried at the Crown Court) neither conviction will become spent until longest period expires.
- Cautions, reprimands and final warnings are not considered to be convictions and become "spent" immediately unless relevant to "excepted posts"
- A spent conviction will remain on your criminal record.
- It is an offence for anyone to give information about spent convictions from official records except in the course of official duties.

For further information please contact NIACRO at Tel: 028 9032 0157