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LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 354

Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28; Hansen, M., 26.

Read first time January 16, 2019

Committee: Judiciary

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Nebraska Juvenile Code; to amend 2 sections 43-260.04, 43-2,108.01, 43-2,108.02, 43-2, 108.03, 3 43-2,108.04, and 43-2,108.05, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 4 and section 43-2,108, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018; 5 to protect confidential information in juvenile court case files; to 6 change provisions relating to the sealing of juvenile records; to 7 provide for retroactivity; to increase a penalty; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.
- 9 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

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1 Section 1. Section 43-260.04, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,

- 2 is amended to read:
- 3 43-260.04 A juvenile pretrial diversion program shall:
- 4 (1) Be an option available for the county attorney or city attorney
- 5 based upon his or her determination under this subdivision. The county
- 6 attorney or city attorney may use the following information:
- 7 (a) The juvenile's age;
- 8 (b) The nature of the offense and role of the juvenile in the 9 offense;
- 10 (c) The number and nature of previous offenses involving the 11 juvenile;
- 12 (d) The dangerousness or threat posed by the juvenile to persons or
- 13 property; or
- 14 (e) The recommendations of the referring agency, victim, and
- 15 advocates for the juvenile;
- 16 (2) Permit participation by a juvenile only on a voluntary basis and
- 17 shall include a juvenile diversion agreement described in section
- 18 43-260.06;
- 19 (3) Allow the juvenile to consult with counsel prior to a decision
- 20 to participate in the program;
- 21 (4) Be offered to the juvenile when practicable prior to the filing
- 22 of a juvenile petition or a criminal charge but after the arrest of the
- 23 juvenile or issuance of a citation to the juvenile if after the arrest or
- 24 citation a decision has been made by the county attorney or city attorney
- 25 that the offense will support the filing of a juvenile petition or
- 26 criminal charges;
- 27 (5) Provide screening services for use in creating a diversion plan
- 28 utilizing appropriate services for the juvenile;
- 29 (6) Result in dismissal of the juvenile petition or criminal charges
- 30 if the juvenile successfully completes the program;
- 31 (7) Be designed and operated to further the goals stated in section

- 1 43-260.03 and comply with sections 43-260.04 to 43-260.07;—and
- 2 (8) Require information received by the program regarding the
- 3 juvenile to remain confidential unless a release of information is signed
- 4 upon admission to the program or is otherwise authorized by law; and -
- 5 (9) Seal all records pertaining to the offense and diversion upon
- 6 discharge from the program. The diversion program shall reply to any
- 7 public inquiry that no information exists regarding a sealed record.
- 8 Sec. 2. Section 43-2,108, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 9 2018, is amended to read:
- 10 43-2,108 (1) The juvenile court judge shall keep a record of all
- 11 proceedings of the court in each case, including appearances, findings,
- 12 orders, decrees, and judgments, and any evidence which he or she feels it
- 13 is necessary and proper to record. The case file shall contain the
- 14 complaint or petition and subsequent pleadings. The public case file
- 15 <u>shall not contain any information that is protected under the federal</u>
- 16 <u>Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as such act</u>
- 17 <u>existed on January 1, 2019.</u> The case file may be maintained as an
- 18 electronic document through the court's electronic case management
- 19 system, on microfilm, or in a paper volume and disposed of when
- 20 determined by the State Records Administrator pursuant to the Records
- 21 Management Act.
- 22 (2) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section,
- 23 the medical, psychological, psychiatric, and social welfare reports and
- 24 the records of juvenile probation officers as they relate to individual
- 25 proceedings in the juvenile court shall not be open to inspection,
- 26 without order of the court. Such records shall be made available to a
- 27 district court of this state or the District Court of the United States
- 28 on the order of a judge thereof for the confidential use of such judge or
- 29 his or her probation officer as to matters pending before such court but
- 30 shall not be made available to parties or their counsel; and such
- 31 district court records shall be made available to a county court or

1 separate juvenile court upon request of the county judge or separate

2 juvenile judge for the confidential use of such judge and his or her

3 probation officer as to matters pending before such court, but shall not

- 4 be made available by such judge to the parties or their counsel.
- 5 (3) As used in this section, confidential record information means all docket records, other than the pleadings, orders, decrees, and 6 7 judgments; case files and records; reports and records of probation officers; and information supplied to the court of jurisdiction in such 8 9 cases by any individual or any public or private institution, agency, 10 facility, or clinic, which is compiled by, produced by, and in the possession of any court. In all cases under subdivision (3)(a) of section 11 43-247, access to all confidential record information in such cases shall 12 13 be granted only as follows: (a) The court of jurisdiction may, subject to applicable federal and state regulations, disseminate such confidential 14 record information to any individual, or public or private agency, 15 institution, facility, or clinic which is providing services directly to 16 the juvenile and such juvenile's parents or guardian and his or her 17 immediate family who are the subject of such record information; (b) the 18 19 court of jurisdiction may disseminate such confidential record information, with the consent of persons who are subjects of such 20 information, or by order of such court after showing of good cause, to 21 22 any law enforcement agency upon such agency's specific request for such agency's exclusive use in the investigation of any protective service 23 24 case or investigation of allegations under subdivision (3)(a) of section 25 43-247, regarding the juvenile or such juvenile's immediate family, who are the subject of such investigation; and (c) the court of jurisdiction 26 may disseminate such confidential record information to any court, which 27 28 has jurisdiction of the juvenile who is the subject of such information upon such court's request. 29
- 30 (4) The court shall provide copies of predispositional reports and 31 evaluations of the juvenile to the juvenile's attorney and the county

- 1 attorney or city attorney prior to any hearing in which the report or 2 evaluation will be relied upon.
- 3 (5) In all cases under sections 43-246.01 and 43-247, the office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare may submit a written request 4 to the probation administrator for access to the records of juvenile 5 probation officers in a specific case. Upon a juvenile court order, the 6 7 records shall be provided to the Inspector General within five days for the exclusive use in an investigation pursuant to the Office of Inspector 8 9 General of Nebraska Child Welfare Act. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the notification of death or serious injury of a juvenile to the 10 Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare pursuant to section 43-4318 11 possible after the Office of Probation 12 reasonably soon as Administration learns of such death or serious injury. 13
- (6) In all cases under sections 43-246.01 and 43-247, the juvenile court shall disseminate confidential record information to the Foster Care Review Office pursuant to the Foster Care Review Act.
- 17 (7) Nothing in subsections (3), (5), and (6) of this section shall be construed to restrict the dissemination of confidential record 18 19 information between any individual or public or private agency, institute, facility, or clinic, except any such confidential record 20 information disseminated by the court of jurisdiction pursuant to this 21 22 section shall be for the exclusive and private use of those to whom it was released and shall not be disseminated further without order of such 23 24 court.
- (8)(a) Any records concerning a juvenile court petition filed 25 pursuant to subdivision (3)(c) of section 43-247 shall 26 remain confidential except as may be provided otherwise by law. Such records 27 shall be accessible to (i) the juvenile except as provided in subdivision 28 (b) of this subsection, (ii) the juvenile's counsel, (iii) the juvenile's 29 parent or guardian, and (iv) persons authorized by an order of a judge or 30 court. 31

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thereof.

- (b) Upon application by the county attorney or by the director of the facility where the juvenile is placed and upon a showing of good cause therefor, a judge of the juvenile court having jurisdiction over the juvenile or of the county where the facility is located may order that the records shall not be made available to the juvenile if, in the judgment of the court, the availability of such records to the juvenile will adversely affect the juvenile's mental state and the treatment
- 9 (9) Nothing in subsection (3), (5), or (6) of this section shall be construed to restrict the immediate dissemination of a current picture 10 and information about a child who is missing from a foster care or out-11 of-home placement. Such dissemination by the Office of Probation 12 Administration shall be authorized by an order of a judge or court. Such 13 information shall be subject to state and federal confidentiality laws 14 and shall not include that the child is in the care, custody, or control 15 of the Department of Health and Human Services or under the supervision 16
- Sec. 3. Section 43-2,108.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 19 is amended to read:

of the Office of Probation Administration.

- 43-2,108.01 (1) Sections 43-2,108.01 to 43-2,108.05 apply only to persons who were under the age of eighteen years when the offense took place and, after being taken into custody, arrested, cited in lieu of arrest, or referred for prosecution without citation, the county attorney or city attorney:
- 25 <u>(a) Declined to file (1) released the juvenile without filing</u> a 26 juvenile petition or criminal complaint;
- 27 <u>(b) Offered</u> , (2) offered juvenile pretrial diversion or mediation 28 to the juvenile under the Nebraska Juvenile Code;
- (c) Filed, (3) filed a juvenile court petition describing the juvenile as a juvenile described in subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247;

- 1 (d) Filed (4) filed a criminal complaint in county court against
- 2 the juvenile under state statute or city or village ordinance for
- 3 misdemeanor or infraction possession of marijuana or misdemeanor or
- 4 infraction possession of drug paraphernalia;
- 5 <u>(e) Filed</u>, or (5) filed a criminal complaint in county court
- 6 against the juvenile for any other misdemeanor or infraction under state
- 7 statute or city or village ordinance, other than for a traffic offense,
- 8 when all offenses in the case are waiveable offenses; or that may be
- 9 waived.
- 10 <u>(f) Filed a criminal complaint in county or district court for a</u>
- 11 <u>felony offense under state law or a city or village ordinance that was</u>
- 12 <u>subsequently transferred to juvenile court for ongoing jurisdiction.</u>
- 13 (2) The changes made to sections 43-2,108.01 to 43-2,108.05 by this
- 14 <u>legislative bill shall apply to all persons otherwise eligible in</u>
- 15 <u>accordance with the provisions of such sections whether the offense</u>
- 16 occurred prior to, on, or after the effective date of this act.
- 17 Sec. 4. Section 43-2,108.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
- 18 is amended to read:
- 19 43-2,108.02 (1) By January 1, 2020, the Supreme Court shall
- 20 <u>promulgate a</u> For a juvenile described in section 43-2,108.01, the county
- 21 attorney or city attorney shall provide the juvenile with written notice
- 22 that:
- 23 (a) States in developmentally appropriate language that, for a
- 24 juvenile described in section 43-2,108.01, the juvenile's record will be
- 25 automatically sealed if (i) no charges are filed as a result of the
- 26 <u>determination</u> of the prosecuting attorney, (ii) the charges are
- 27 dismissed, (iii) the juvenile has satisfactorily completed the diversion,
- 28 <u>mediation</u>, <u>probation</u>, <u>supervision</u>, <u>or other treatment or rehabilitation</u>
- 29 program provided under the Nebraska Juvenile Code, or (iv) the juvenile
- 30 has satisfactorily completed the county court diversion program,
- 31 probation ordered by the court, or sentence ordered by the court;

- 1 (b) (1) States in developmentally appropriate plain language that,
- 2 <u>if the record is not sealed as provided in subdivision (1)(a) of this</u>
- 3 section, the juvenile or the juvenile's parent or guardian may file a
- 4 motion to seal the record with the court when the juvenile reaches the
- 5 age of majority or six months have passed since the case was closed,
- 6 <u>whichever occurs sooner</u> has satisfactorily completed the diversion,
- 7 mediation, probation, supervision, or other treatment or rehabilitation
- 8 program provided under the Nebraska Juvenile Code or has satisfactorily
- 9 completed the diversion or sentence ordered by a county court; and
- 10 <u>(c)</u> Explains in <u>developmentally appropriate</u> plain language what
- 11 sealing the record means.
- 12 (2) For a juvenile described in section 43-2,108.01, the county
- 13 attorney or city attorney shall attach a copy of the notice to any
- 14 juvenile petition or criminal complaint.
- 15 Sec. 5. Section 43-2,108.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
- 16 is amended to read:
- 43-2,108.03 (1)(a) If a juvenile described in section 43-2,108.01
- 18 was taken into custody, arrested, cited in lieu of arrest, or referred
- 19 for prosecution without citation but no juvenile petition or criminal
- 20 complaint was filed against the juvenile with respect to the arrest or
- 21 custody, the county attorney or city attorney shall notify the government
- 22 agency responsible for the arrest, custody, citation in lieu of arrest,
- 23 or referral for prosecution without citation that no criminal charge or
- 24 juvenile court petition was filed. The county attorney or city attorney
- 25 shall provide written notification to the juvenile that no juvenile
- 26 petition or criminal complaint was filed and provide the juvenile with
- the notice described in section 43-2,108.02.
- 28 (b) If a juvenile described in subdivision (1)(a) of this section
- 29 discovers that his or her record was not automatically sealed, such
- 30 juvenile may notify the county attorney, who shall cause the record to be
- 31 sealed by providing the notice required by subdivision (1)(a) of this

- 1 section.
- 2 (2)(a) If the county attorney or city attorney offered and a
- 3 juvenile described in section 43-2,108.01 has agreed to pretrial
- 4 diversion or mediation, the county attorney or city attorney shall notify
- 5 the government agency responsible for the arrest or custody when the
- 6 juvenile has satisfactorily completed the resulting diversion or
- 7 mediation. At the time the juvenile is offered diversion or mediation,
- 8 the county attorney or city attorney shall provide the notice described
- 9 <u>in section 43-2,108.02 to the juvenile. The county attorney or city</u>
- 10 attorney shall also provide written notification to the juvenile of his
- 11 <u>or her satisfactory or unsatisfactory completion of diversion or</u>
- 12 <u>mediation</u>.
- 13 <u>(b) If a juvenile who was satisfactorily discharged from diversion</u>
- 14 or mediation discovers that his or her record was not automatically
- 15 sealed, the juvenile may notify the county attorney, who shall cause the
- 16 record to be sealed by providing the notice required by subdivision (2)
- 17 (a) of this section.
- 18 (3)(a) If the juvenile was taken into custody, arrested, cited in
- 19 lieu of arrest, or referred for prosecution without citation and charges
- 20 were filed but the case was later dismissed by the court, the court shall
- 21 seal the record as set forth in section 43-2,108.05. and any required
- 22 pretrial diversion or mediation for any related charges have been
- 23 completed and no related charges remain under the jurisdiction of the
- 24 court, the county attorney or city attorney shall notify the government
- 25 agency responsible for the arrest, custody, citation in lieu of arrest,
- 26 or referral for prosecution without citation and the court where the
- 27 charge or petition was filed that the charge or juvenile court petition
- 28 was dismissed.
- 29 (b) If a juvenile described in subdivision (3)(a) discovers that his
- 30 or her record was not automatically sealed, the juvenile may notify the
- 31 court, which shall seal the record as set forth in section 43-2,108.05.

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- 1 (4)(a) If a juvenile described in section 43-2,108.01 has
- 2 <u>satisfactorily completed the probation, supervision, or other treatment</u>
- 3 or rehabilitation program provided under the Nebraska Juvenile Code or if
- 4 the juvenile has satisfactorily completed the probation or sentence
- 5 ordered by a county court, the court shall seal the records as set forth
- 6 <u>in section 43-2,108.05.</u>
- 7 (b) If a juvenile described in subdivision (4)(a) discovers that his
- 8 <u>or her record was not automatically sealed, the juvenile may notify the</u>
- 9 court, which shall seal the record as set forth in section 43-2,108.05.
- 10 (5) A government agency or court that receives (4) Upon receiving
- 11 notice under subsection subdivision (1)(a) or (2)(a) or (3) of this
- 12 section, the government agency or court shall, upon such receipt,
- 13 immediately seal all records housed at that government agency or court
- 14 pertaining to the citation, arrest, record of custody, complaint,
- 15 disposition, diversion, or mediation.
- 16 (6) When a juvenile described in section 43-2,108.01 whose records
- 17 have not been automatically sealed as provided in subsection (1), (2),
- 18 (3), or (4) of this section reaches the age of majority or six months
- 19 have passed since the case was closed, whichever occurs sooner, such
- 20 juvenile or his or her parent or guardian may file a motion in the court
- 21 of record asking the court to seal the record pertaining to the offense
- 22 which resulted in disposition, adjudication, or diversion in juvenile
- 23 court or diversion or sentence of the county court. The motion shall set
- 24 forth the facts supporting the argument that the individual who is the
- 25 subject of the juvenile petition or criminal complaint has been
- 26 satisfactorily rehabilitated.
- 27 (5) If a juvenile described in section 43-2,108.01 has
- 28 satisfactorily completed such juvenile's probation, supervision, or other
- 29 treatment or rehabilitation program provided under the Nebraska Juvenile
- 30 Code or has satisfactorily completed such juvenile's diversion or
- 31 sentence in county court:

- 1 (a) The court may initiate proceedings pursuant to section 2 43-2,108.04 to seal the record pertaining to such disposition or 3 adjudication under the juvenile code or sentence of the county court; and 4 (b) If the juvenile has attained the age of seventeen years, the 5 court shall initiate proceedings pursuant to section 43-2,108.04 to seal 6 the record pertaining to such disposition or adjudication under the 7 juvenile code or diversion or sentence of the county court, except that the court is not required to initiate proceedings to seal a record 8 9 pertaining to a misdemeanor or infraction not described in subdivision 10 (4) of section 43-2,108.01 under a city or village ordinance that has no possible jail sentence. Such a record may be sealed under subsection (6) 11 12 of this section.
- 13 (6) If a juvenile described in section 43-2,108.01 has satisfactorily completed diversion, mediation, probation, supervision, or 14 other treatment or rehabilitation program provided under the Nebraska 15 16 Juvenile Code or has satisfactorily completed the diversion or sentence 17 ordered by a county court, the juvenile or the juvenile's parent or 18 guardian may file a motion in the court of record asking the court to 19 seal the record pertaining to the offense which resulted in such disposition, adjudication, or diversion of the juvenile court or 20 21 diversion or sentence of the county court.
- Sec. 6. Section 43-2,108.04, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:
- 43-2,108.04 (1) When a proceeding to seal the record is initiated, 24 25 the court shall promptly notify the county attorney or city attorney involved in the case that is the subject of the proceeding to seal the 26 record of the proceedings, and shall promptly notify the Department of 27 28 Health and Human Services of the proceedings if the juvenile whose record is the subject of the proceeding is a ward of the state at the time the 29 proceeding is initiated or if the department was a party in the 30 proceeding. 31

- 1 (2) A party notified under subsection (1) of this section may file a
 2 response with the court within thirty days after receiving such notice.
 3 Any such response shall be served on all parties to the case. If the
 4 response objects to the sealing of a record, such response shall specify
 5 which factor or factors under subsection (5) of this section form the
 6 basis for the objection and shall set forth the facts supporting any
 7 argument that the juvenile has not been satisfactorily rehabilitated.
- 8 (3) If a party notified under subsection (1) of this section does 9 not file a response with the court or files a response that indicates 10 there is no objection to the sealing of the record, the court shall order that may: (a) Order the record of the juvenile under consideration be 11 12 sealed without conducting a hearing on the motion; or (b) decide in its discretion to conduct a hearing on the motion. If the court decides in 13 its discretion to conduct a hearing on the motion, the court shall 14 15 conduct the hearing within sixty days after making that decision and 16 shall give notice, by regular mail, of the date, time, and location of 17 the hearing to the parties receiving notice under subsection (1) of this section and to the juvenile who is the subject of the record under 18 19 consideration.
- (4) If a party receiving notice under subsection (1) of this section files a response with the court objecting to the sealing of the record, the court shall conduct a hearing on the motion within sixty days after the court receives the response. The court shall give notice, by regular mail, of the date, time, and location of the hearing to the parties receiving notice under subsection (1) of this section and to the juvenile who is the subject of the record under consideration.
- (5) After conducting a hearing in accordance with this section, the court shall may order the record of the juvenile that is the subject of the motion be sealed if it finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the juvenile has been rehabilitated to a satisfactory degree. In determining whether the juvenile has been rehabilitated to a satisfactory

- 1 degree, the court may consider all of the following:
- 2 (a) The age of the juvenile;
- 3 (b) The nature of the offense and the role of the juvenile in the
- 4 offense;
- 5 $\frac{(a)}{(c)}$ The behavior of the juvenile after the disposition,
- 6 adjudication, diversion, or sentence and the juvenile's response to
- 7 diversion, mediation, probation, supervision, other treatment or
- 8 rehabilitation program, or sentence;
- 9 (b) (d) The education and employment history of the juvenile; and
- 10 $\underline{\text{(c)}}$ (e) Any other circumstances that may relate to the
- 11 rehabilitation of the juvenile.
- 12 (6) If, after conducting the hearing in accordance with this
- 13 section, the juvenile is not found to be satisfactorily rehabilitated
- 14 such that the record is not ordered to be sealed, a juvenile who is a
- 15 person described in section 43-2,108.01 or such juvenile's parent or
- 16 guardian may not move the court to seal the record for one year after the
- 17 court's decision not to seal the record is made, unless such time
- 18 restriction is waived by the court.
- 19 Sec. 7. Section 43-2,108.05, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
- 20 is amended to read:
- 21 43-2,108.05 (1) If the court orders the record of a juvenile sealed
- 22 pursuant to section 43-2,108.04, the court shall:
- 23 (a) Order that all records, including any information or other data
- 24 concerning any proceedings relating to the offense, including the arrest,
- 25 taking into custody, petition, complaint, indictment, information, trial,
- 26 hearing, adjudication, correctional supervision, dismissal, or other
- 27 disposition or sentence, be deemed never to have occurred;
- 28 (b) Send notice of the order to seal the record (i) to the Nebraska
- 29 Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, (ii) if the record
- 30 includes impoundment or prohibition to obtain a license or permit
- 31 pursuant to section 43-287, to the Department of Motor Vehicles, (ii)

- 1 (iii) if the juvenile whose record has been ordered sealed was a ward of
- 2 the state at the time the proceeding was initiated or if the Department
- 3 of Health and Human Services was a party in the proceeding, to such
- 4 department, and (iii) (iv) to law enforcement agencies, county attorneys,
- 5 and city attorneys referenced in the court record;
- 6 (c) Order all notified under subdivision (1)(b) of this section to 7 seal all records pertaining to the offense;
- 8 (d) If the case was transferred from district court to juvenile
- 9 court or was transferred under section 43-282, send notice of the order
- 10 to seal the record to the transferring court; and
- 11 (e) Explain to the juvenile <u>using developmentally appropriate</u>
- 12 <u>language</u> what sealing the record means. The explanation shall be given
- 13 verbally if the juvenile is present in the court at the time the court
- 14 issues the sealing order and or by written notice sent by regular mail to
- 15 the juvenile's last-known address if the juvenile is not present in the
- 16 court at the time the court issues the sealing order. The sealing order
- 17 <u>shall include contact information for each government agency subject to</u>
- 18 the sealing order.
- 19 (2) The effect of having a record sealed under section 43-2,108.04
- 20 is that thereafter no person is allowed to release any information
- 21 concerning such record, except as provided by this section. After a
- 22 record is sealed, the person whose record was sealed can respond to any
- 23 public inquiry as if the offense resulting in such record never occurred.
- 24 A government agency and any other public office or agency shall reply to
- 25 any public inquiry that no information exists regarding a sealed record.
- 26 Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, an order to seal
- 27 the record applies to every government agency and any other public office
- 28 or agency that has a record relating to the offense, regardless of
- 29 whether it receives notice of the hearing on the sealing of the record or
- 30 a copy of the order. Upon the written request of a person whose record
- 31 has been sealed and the presentation of a copy of such order, a

- 1 government agency or any other public office or agency shall seal all
- 2 records pertaining to the offense.
- 3 (3) A sealed record is accessible to the individual who is the
- 4 subject of the sealed record and any persons authorized by such
- 5 individual, law enforcement officers, county attorneys, and city
- 6 attorneys in the investigation, prosecution, and sentencing of crimes, to
- 7 the sentencing judge in the sentencing of criminal defendants, to a judge
- 8 making a determination whether to transfer a case to or from juvenile
- 9 court, to any attorney representing the subject of the sealed record, and
- 10 to the Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare pursuant to an
- 11 investigation conducted under the Office of Inspector General of Nebraska
- 12 Child Welfare Act. Inspection of records that have been ordered sealed
- 13 under section 43-2,108.04 may be made by the following persons or for the
- 14 following purposes:
- 15 (a) By the court or by any person allowed to inspect such records by
- 16 an order of the court for good cause shown;
- 17 (b) By the court, city attorney, or county attorney for purposes of
- 18 collection of any remaining parental support or obligation balances under
- 19 section 43-290;
- 20 (c) By the Nebraska Probation System for purposes of juvenile intake
- 21 services, for presentence and other probation investigations, and for the
- 22 direct supervision of persons placed on probation and by the Department
- 23 of Correctional Services, the Office of Juvenile Services, a juvenile
- 24 assessment center, a criminal detention facility, a juvenile detention
- 25 facility, or a staff secure juvenile facility, for an individual
- 26 committed to it, placed with it, or under its care;
- 27 (d) By the Department of Health and Human Services for purposes of
- 28 juvenile intake services, the preparation of case plans and reports, the
- 29 preparation of evaluations, compliance with federal reporting
- 30 requirements, or the supervision and protection of persons placed with
- 31 the department or for licensing or certification purposes under sections

- 1 71-1901 to 71-1906.01, the Child Care Licensing Act, or the Children's
- 2 Residential Facilities and Placing Licensure Act;
- 3 (e) By Upon application, by the individual person who is the subject
- 4 of the sealed record and by persons authorized by such individual the
- 5 person who is the subject of the sealed record who are named in that
- 6 application;
- 7 (f) At the request of a party in a civil action that is based on a
- 8 case that has a sealed record, as needed for the civil action. The party
- 9 also may copy the sealed record as needed for the civil action. The
- 10 sealed record shall be used solely in the civil action and is otherwise
- 11 confidential and subject to this section;
- 12 (g) By persons engaged in bona fide research, with the permission of
- 13 the court or the State Court Administrator, only if the research results
- 14 in no disclosure of the person's identity and protects the
- 15 confidentiality of the sealed record; or
- 16 (h) By a law enforcement agency if <u>the individual</u> a person whose
- 17 record has been sealed applies for employment with the law enforcement
- 18 agency.
- 19 (4) Nothing in this section prohibits the Department of Health and
- 20 Human Services from releasing information from sealed records in the
- 21 performance of its duties with respect to the supervision and protection
- of persons served by the department.
- 23 (5) In any application for employment, bonding, license, education,
- 24 or other right or privilege, any appearance as a witness, or any other
- 25 public inquiry, a person cannot be questioned with respect to any offense
- 26 for which the record is sealed. If an inquiry is made in violation of
- 27 this subsection, the person may respond as if the offense never occurred.
- 28 Applications for employment shall contain specific language that states
- 29 that the applicant is not obligated to disclose a sealed record.
- 30 Employers shall not ask if an applicant has had a record sealed. The
- 31 Department of Labor shall develop a link on the department's web site to

- 1 inform employers that employers cannot ask if an applicant had a record
- 2 sealed and that an application for employment shall contain specific
- 3 language that states that the applicant is not obligated to disclose a
- 4 sealed record.
- 5 (6) Any person who <u>negligently</u>, <u>recklessly</u>, <u>or knowingly and</u>
- 6 <u>intentionally</u> violates this section <u>shall be guilty of a Class V</u>
- 7 <u>misdemeanor</u> may be held in contempt of court.
- 8 Sec. 8. Original sections 43-260.04, 43-2,108.01, 43-2,108.02,
- 9 43-2,108.03, 43-2,108.04, and 43-2,108.05, Reissue Revised Statutes of
- 10 Nebraska, and section 43-2,108, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 11 2018, are repealed.