



PR#204-24

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Introduction of Criminal Record Expungement Services**

*Belmopan, December 4, 2024.*

The Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, through its Community Rehabilitation Department, in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries and the Attorney General's Ministry, are pleased to introduce Criminal Record Expungement Services to the public. Following the enactment of the Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 2024, individuals can now apply to have past criminal convictions removed from their criminal records.

This initiative, which is in tandem with Belize's criminal justice reform, aims to provide second chances to individuals who may be hindered in their personal or professional lives due to a past conviction. To facilitate this, the Ministry has established a Criminal Records Board, which holds the responsibility of reviewing and accepting or denying applications. These applications are being accepted countrywide and can be obtained at any Ministry of Human Development office, Ministry of Home Affairs office in Belmopan, and on the Ministry of Home Affairs website.

The Community Rehabilitation Department remains committed to its mandate of empowering communities and improving the quality of life of the clients it serves.

#### **Ends**

For further information please contact:

Criminal Records Board

Community Rehabilitation Department

Tel: +501 227-2716

WhatsApp: +501 613-0343

Email: [criminalrecords.crd@humandev.gov.bz](mailto:criminalrecords.crd@humandev.gov.bz)