



Restoration of Civil Rights Information

As a convicted felon, you lost some of your civil rights. Four of the most important are the right to vote, the right to hold public office, the right to serve on a jury and the right to serve as a Notary Public. There is a very specific process you need to follow in order to attempt to have these rights restored. Only the Governor can restore your lost civil rights. If you were convicted of a felony in another state, you will need to contact the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth at the below address, for instructions in this area specific to your state of conviction.

In order to be eligible for restoration of rights by the Governor, an applicant must:

- Be a resident of Virginia, and/or have been convicted of a felony in a Virginia court, a U.S. District court or a military court
- Be free from any sentence served or supervised probation and parole for a minimum of two years for a non-violent offense or five years for a violent felony or drug distribution, drug manufacturing offense, any crimes against a minor, or an election law offense.
- Have paid all court costs, fines, penalties, and restitution and have no felony or misdemeanor charges pending.
- Not have had a DWI in the five years immediately preceding the application.
- Not have any misdemeanor convictions and/or pending criminal charges two years preceding the application for non-violent felonies or five years for a violent felony or drug distribution, drug manufacturing offense, any crimes against a minor, or an election law offense.

A completed application of required information must be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. To obtain an application packet, you can contact their office in Richmond, Virginia at the below address or at <http://www.commonwealth.virginia.gov/> or any Virginia Probation and Parole Office. Inside the application are detailed instructions on how to complete the information and where you can go if you need assistance.

The Code of Virginia § 53.1-231.2 has made it possible for eligible non-violent convicted felons to have the right to vote reinstated. You will need to be free from any active or suspended sentence, supervised or unsupervised probation, parole, post release supervision, or good behavior for a period of five years. This requires the Circuit Court of conviction or the Circuit Court where you currently reside in Virginia, to approve a petition for this privilege only. If approved by the Circuit Court, the petition is then forwarded to the Secretary of the Commonwealth to transmit the matter to the Governor for review and final approval. Only the Governor can restore this civil right. You can contact the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth in Richmond, Virginia at the below address or at <http://www.commonwealth.virginia.gov/> or your local Virginia Probation and Parole Office for information and assistance.

This process DOES NOT in any way apply to the restoration of your right to carry a firearm. That is an entirely separate procedure.

Office of the Secretary of Commonwealth
Attn: Director of Rights Restoration
PO Box 2454
Richmond, Virginia 23218-2454

Telephone: (804) 786 2441

Website: <http://www.commonwealth.virginia.gov/>