

Restoration of Rights: Application for More Serious Offenses

About the Rights Restoration Process:

Persons who have been convicted of a *violent offense, an offense against a minor, or an election law offense* must use this form to apply for restoration of rights (a detailed list of more serious offenses is available at www.commonwealth.virginia.gov/ror).

To apply for restoration of rights, you must:

- Have been convicted of a felony in a Virginia court or a U.S. District court
- Be free from any sentence served and/or supervised probation and parole for a minimum of three years.
- Not have any felony convictions in the three years immediately preceding the application and/or pending criminal charges

The Secretary of the Commonwealth will conduct a criminal history check on all applicants.

The civil rights restored through this process include the rights to:

- ✓ Register to vote
- ✓ Hold public office
- ✓ Serve on a jury
- ✓ Serve as a notary public.

The restoration of rights does not restore the right to possess a firearm. You must petition the appropriate Circuit Court pursuant to Va. Code §18.2-308.2. It also does not expunge a criminal charge, which can only be done by petitioning a Circuit Court pursuant to Va. Code §§19.2-392.1 and 19.2-392.2.

This is not a pardon. A person who has been convicted of a felony must first have his or her rights restored in order to be eligible to petition for a simple pardon.

If you have questions about your eligibility, contact the Restoration of Rights Office at (804) 692-0104.

Mail your Application to:

Restoration of Rights
Secretary of the Commonwealth
P. O. Box 2454
Richmond, VA 23218

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Please print or type the complete information in each blank. If a question does not apply, put "N/A" in the blank. Attach certified copies of all required documents to this application.

A. Legal Name Now Used (Please Print): _____

B. Name as Convicted (Please Print): _____

C. Gender: Male _____ Female _____

D. Date of Birth: _____ Social Security Number: _____

E. Mailing Address: _____

F. City and State: _____

G. Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

H. Cell Phone: _____ Email (If any): _____

Felony Offense(s): _____

Court: _____

County/State: _____

Date(s) of Conviction: _____

Date(s) of Sentence: _____

Date of Release from Incarceration (If Applicable): _____

Date of Release from Supervised Probation or Parole: _____

Application Check List

Make certain you have included the following:

- The application, completely filled out (It is important that you list **each** felony conviction on the application)
- Certified copies of all felony sentencing orders
- A current letter from your most recent Probation or Parole officer/office outlining your period of supervision
This letter should be addressed to the Governor, c/o Secretary of the Commonwealth, and may be mailed with your application or mailed directly from the Probation/Parole office. If your officer has retired or is no longer working in that office, call the Probation/Parole office that you reported to and explain to them that you are applying to have your rights restored. They will know what type of letter to provide.