

# GETTING YOUR RIGHTS RESTORED

The following is the process one must complete in order to have their voting rights restored. To seek or hold public office, one must have their citizenship rights restored by a court.

1. Obtain a Certificate of Restoration (COR) form or petition the court in which the conviction occurred or the court in which the person resides.
2. If a Court Order is obtained, submit a Certified Copy of the Court Order to your local county election commission office.
3. If a Certificate of Restoration is obtained, have the authorized agent(s) complete Sections 1 thru 4.
4. Once the COR is complete, submit the original COR to your local county election commission office.
5. Your local county election commission office will forward the submitted documentation to the Coordinator of Elections' office for approval.
6. Once the local county election commission office receives approval from the Coordinator of Elections, the applicant will be notified and may submit a Voter Registration Application.
7. The local county election commission office will review the voter registration application and if the applicant is eligible to register to vote, the application will be processed and the voter will receive a voter registration card in the mail.

Your voting rights cannot be restored if you have outstanding restitution, court costs or child support obligations.

**State of Tennessee  
Conviction Prior to January 15, 1973**

(Crutchfield V. Collins, 607 S.W. 2D 478 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1980)

**Type of Crime That Forfeits Right to Vote**

- Abusing a female child;
- Arson and felonious burning;
- Bigamy;
- Bribery;
- Burglary; felonious breaking and entering a dwelling house; felonious breaking into a business house, outhouse other than a dwelling house; larceny; horse stealing; robbery; receiving stolen property; stealing bills of exchange or other valuable papers;
- Destroying a will;
- Incest; rape; sodomy; buggery; or
- Perjury; subornation of perjury.

**Conditions Under Which Person May Be Eligible for Restoration of Voting Rights**

- Proving that, at the time of conviction, the judge did not render person infamous;
- Conviction reversed on appeal;
- Receipt of a full pardon; or
- Circuit court, in either the county where person resides or in the county where person was convicted, issues judgment that restores full rights of citizenship upon the person. (Person may petition the circuit court for restoration at the expiration of the maximum sentence imposed for the infamous crime conviction.)

**Procedure for Restoring Voting Rights**

- Present proof of one of the above-mentioned conditions to the county election commission in the county in which the person resides;
- County administrator of elections shall send a copy of the documentation to the Coordinator of Elections for verification; and
- Upon verification, the person may be registered to vote.

**State of Tennessee  
Conviction Between January 15, 1973, and May 17, 1981**

**Public Chapter 740 § 4(70) (1972) &  
Crutchfield V. Collins, 607 S.W. 2D 478 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1980)**

**Type of Crime That Forfeits Right to Vote**

- None

**Condition Under Which Person May Be Eligible for Restoration of Voting Rights**

- Because a person convicted of an infamous crime during this time period may register to vote, regardless of the nature of the conviction, there are no conditions or procedures that apply.

This page is compliant to Section 508 of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act.

**State of Tennessee Felony Conviction After May 18, 1981(2006 General Assembly, Public Chapter 860 AND 2-2-139)**

**Type of Crime That Forfeits Right to Vote**

- All Felonies

**Conditions under Which Person May Be Eligible for Restoration of Voting Rights**

- Receipt of a pardon;
- Expiration of the maximum sentence imposed for the crime; or
- Granted final release from incarceration or supervision by the board of paroles, the department of correction, or county correction authority; and
- Any court order restitution paid; and/or
- Current in the payment of any child support obligations; and/or
- Any court ordered court costs paid

**Procedures for Restoring Voting Rights**

**1. Court Order**

- Obtain a court order restoring the person's rights in either the county in which the person currently resides or the county in which the person was convicted.
- Bring the certified copy of the original order to the office of the county election commission in the county in which the person resides.

**OR**

**2. Certificate of Restoration**

- Print the Certificate of Restoration of Voting Rights, or obtain a certificate from the county election commission office;
- Have the Certificate of Restoration of Voting Rights completed by:
  - the pardoning authority; or
  - an agent or officer of the supervising or incarcerating authority; and/or
  - an agent of the circuit/criminal court clerk
- Bring the completed Certificate of Restoration of Voting Rights to the office of the county election commission in the county in which person resides;
- County administrator of elections shall send a copy of the Certificate of Restoration of Voting Rights to the Coordinator of Elections for review; and
- Upon review and verification that the applicant does not have any outstanding child support obligations, the person may be registered to vote.

**Exceptions -Persons convicted of any of the following, cannot have his or her voting rights restored:**

- Between July 1, 1986, and June 30, 1996 -first degree murder, aggravated rape, treason, or voter fraud
- Between July 1, 1996, and June 30, 2006 - murder, rape, treason, or voter fraud
- On or after July 1, 2006 – Any of the above, or any degree of murder or rape or any felony offense under TCA Title 39, Chapter 16, parts 1, 4, or 5; or any sexual offense under TCA § 40-39-202(20) or any violent sexual offense under TCA § 40-39-202(28) designated as a felony and where the victim of such offense was a minor



State of Tennessee  
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 7th Floor  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243  
615-741-7956

# CERTIFICATE OF RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS for Persons Convicted of a Felony on or after May 18, 1981

This includes any federal or state felony conviction both  
within Tennessee or from another state.

**TO BE COMPLETED BY AN AGENT OF THE PARDONING AUTHORITY, AN AGENT OR OFFICER OF THE INCARCERATING AUTHORITY, OR A PROBATION/PAROLE OFFICER OR AGENT OF THE SUPERVISING AUTHORITY. A SEPARATE FORM MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH FELONY CONVICTION WITH A DIFFERENT DOCKET/CASE NUMBER. THE PERSON CONVICTED OF THE FELONY OFFENSE MAY NOT COMPLETE THIS FORM.**

1. I hereby certify that the following information is true and correct:

- a. Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Last)
- b. Applicant's County of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_ c. Applicant's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Felony Conviction: \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Month/Day/Year of Conviction: \_\_\_\_\_ f. TOMIS ID: (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ h. Soc. Sec. No.: \_\_\_\_\_

2. On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ **(check one)**

- The above individual received a pardon which contained no special conditions pertaining to the right of suffrage. A copy of said pardon is attached hereto; *or*
- The maximum sentence imposed for such infamous crime has been served by the above individual; *or*
- The maximum sentence imposed for such infamous crime has expired; *or*
- The above individual has been granted final release from incarceration or supervision from either the United States Probation/Parole, a state Board of Probation/Parole, the Department of Correction, or county correction authorities.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

3. I hereby certify that the following is true and correct: **(check one)**

- The court did not order the above individual to pay any restitution as part of his or her sentence; *or*
- All of the restitution ordered by the court as a part of the sentence for the above individual has been paid; *or*
- Restitution ordered by the court is owed.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

4. I hereby certify that the following is true and correct: **(check one)**

- The court did not order the above individual to pay any court cost as part of his or her sentence; *or*
- All court cost assessed against the above individual has been paid; *or*
- For Federal Convictions Only, 18 U.S.C. § 3613(b) applies in this case and therefore the liability to pay has expired; *or*
- The court has made a finding at an evidentiary hearing that the above individual is indigent at the time of application; *or*
- Court costs ordered by the court are owed.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## INSTRUCTIONS

Instructions to the Agent Completing the Certificate of Restoration:

*In order to complete any section of this form, the agent must have access to the information being attested to on this form.*

1. In **BOX #1**, the proper authority/agent must provide the requested applicant information.

NOTE: For 1c, list the crime(s) for which the person was convicted.

For 1d, list the date the person was convicted for the crime listed in 1c.

2. In **BOX #2**, the proper authority/agent must provide the following information:

- a) Provide the date that corresponds to the box that is checked
- b) Check the appropriate box indicating how the applicant completed their sentence
- c) Provide your signature (print name below signature) and contact information

3. In **BOX #3**, the proper authority/agent must provide the following information:

- a) Check the appropriate box as it relates to any restitution that was or was not assessed to the applicant.
- b) Provide your signature (print name below signature) and contact information.

4. In **BOX #4**, the proper authority/agent must provide the following information:

- a) Check the appropriate box as it relates to any court fines that were assessed to the applicant.
- b) Provide your signature (print name below signature) and contact information.

### Persons convicted of any of the following, cannot have his or her voting rights restored:

- Between July 1, 1986, and June 30, 1996 - first degree murder, aggravated rape, treason, or voter fraud
- Between July 1, 1996, and June 30, 2006 - murder, rape, treason, or voter fraud
- On or after July 1, 2006 – Any of the above, or any degree of murder or rape or any felony offense under TCA Title 39, Chapter 16, parts 1, 4, or 5; or any sexual offense under TCA § 40-39-202(20) or any violent sexual offense under TCA § 40-39-202(30) designated as a felony and where the victim of such offense was a minor

### Instructions to the Applicant Seeking to have His or Her Voting Rights Restored:

- After completion, the original form must be filed with the local county election commission office in the county the applicant desires to register to vote.

#### NOTICE

A person is not eligible to apply for a voter registration card and have their voting rights restored unless the person is current in all child support obligations. Before restoring the voting rights of an applicant, the Coordinator of Elections will verify with the Department of Human Services that the applicant does not have any outstanding child support payments or arrearages.