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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I was eligible for “automatic” restoration of civil rights before the new rules were adopted. Does this mean my rights have been automatically restored?

- Many “automatic” applications still have not been processed. If you have a valid certificate of RCR on file, you do not need to submit another application as long as you have no further convictions after the date the certificate was granted.
 - i. If you have a request for RCR pending, and you are still eligible for RCR under the new rules, you do not need to submit another application because the OEC will process your application in the order it was received.
 - ii. If you are NOT eligible for RCR under the new rules, your pending request for RCR will be denied and you cannot submit another application until the new waiting period requirement for RCR has been met.

Q: I received a voter registration card in the mail. Does this mean that my civil rights have been restored?

- Your rights have been restored only if there is a valid certificate of RCR on record. You should abstain from voting unless you have a valid certificate of RCR. You can search for all RCR grants here: <https://fpcweb.fpc.state.fl.us/>

Q: I completed my sentencing in another state. Do I have to apply for RCR in Florida?

- You need to apply for RCR in Florida if:
 - i. You were convicted of a felony in another state or a federal court while you were a Florida resident; or
 - ii. You were convicted of a felony in another state or a federal court and have not had your rights restored before moving to Florida.
- If you were convicted of a felony in another state and had your civil rights restored before you became a Florida resident, you do not need to apply for RCR in Florida.
- NOTE: Some states restore rights automatically, without any paperwork, and a few never take the rights away at all. See, <http://www.aclu.org/map-state-felony-disfranchisement-laws>

Q: How long does it take to have my application processed?

- The OEC is understaffed and many applications can take up to several years to be processed.

Q: Do I need an attorney to get this done?

- No, you do not need an attorney for this process.

Q: Will restoring my civil rights help me restore my right to own, use, or possess a firearm?

- No. Firearm authority is not restored even if your request for RCR has been granted.

Q: How can I obtain certified copies of charging instruments and sentencing documents?

- You must contact the Clerk of Courts in the county you were convicted. There is typically a \$2 certification fee for each document and a per-page charge.

Q: I had “adjudication withheld” for a felony charge. Do I need to apply for RCR?

- No, an “adjudication withheld” is not a conviction, and does not cause the loss of civil rights.